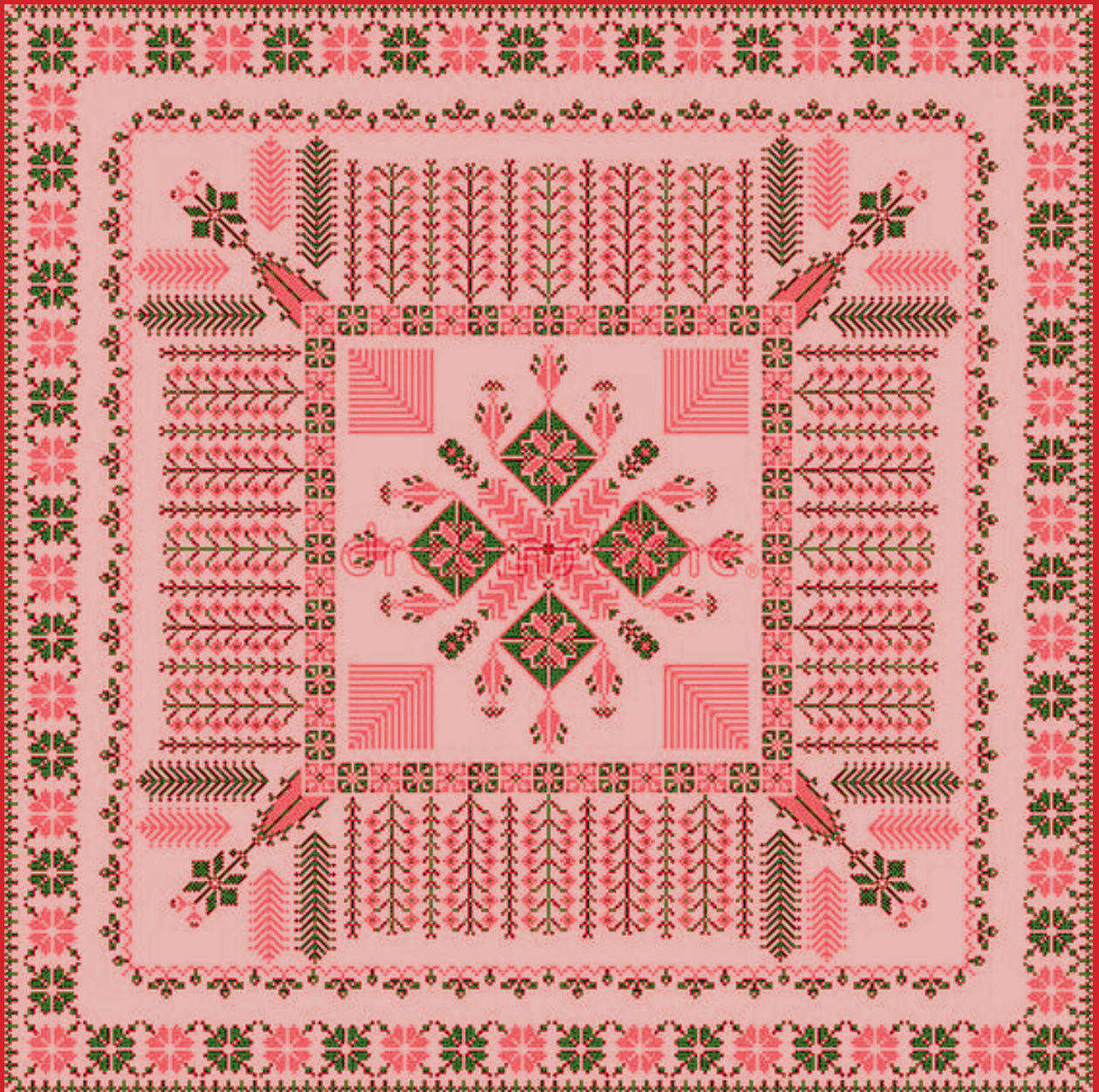


LINGUISTIC LIBERATION

EDITION 76 (+ COUNTING)

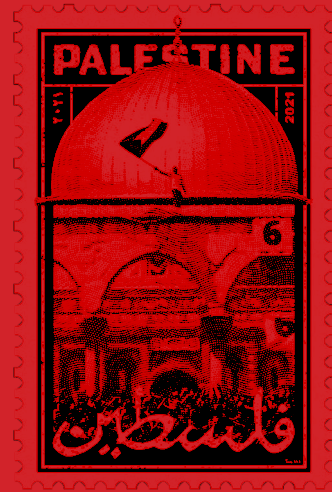
THE PALESTINIAN RHETORIC

NEVER FORGET



“

Words have a big impact on how we see the world, and they're often used to shape the truth. In a world woven with words, where narratives shape perceptions, the story of the Palestinian struggle is often told through a linguistic kaleidocope.



This is a journey through the tapestry of language, a conscious exploration of the vocabulary and semantics that have become the battleground for truth and propaganda.

”



Annexation

AKA Annexed Territories. After the 1967 war, Israel annexed East Jerusalem and part of the West Bank, making Jerusalem bigger by about 55 square miles. In 1981, Israel also annexed Syria's Golan Heights. Both these annexations are considered illegal under United Nations resolutions. Settlements for Jewish residents have been and are being constructed in the annexed areas and in other parts of the West Bank and Gaza. See: East Jerusalem; Golan Heights; Green Line; Occupied Territories; U.N. Resolutions.

Anti-Semitism

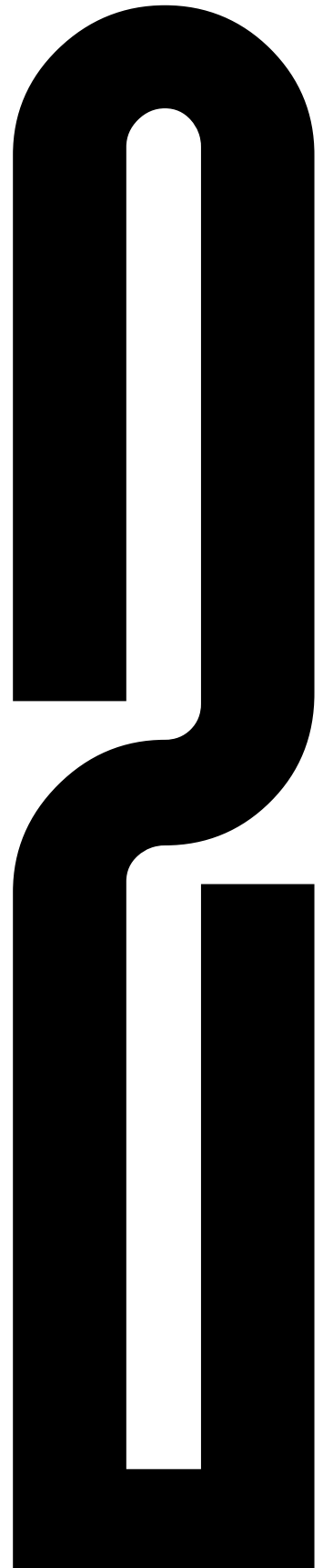
Prejudice or mistreatment of Semitic people, particularly Jews. Though originally connected to Jews in the 1880s, both Jews and Arabs have faced discrimination and persecution for centuries. Anti-Semitism has been severe in Christian-majority European nations, leading to pogroms, the Inquisition, and the Holocaust, and generally refers to negative attitudes toward Jews. Meanwhile, Zionists and Western media act against Palestinians by seizing land, demolishing homes, and committing violence. Critics of these actions are often labeled as "anti-Semitic," a tactic used to silence dissent, especially in Europe, where historical anti-Semitism makes people hesitant to speak out.

Apartheid

Apartheid violates international law and human rights, qualifying as a crime under international criminal law. Initially linked to South Africa's racial segregation, it now universally condemns such practices. According to the Apartheid Convention and Article 7 of the Rome Statute, apartheid involves severe human rights violations by an institutionalized regime systematically oppressing one racial group over another. This includes acts like torture, murder, forcible transfer, imprisonment, or persecution based on various grounds to maintain that system. Essentially, apartheid is prolonged and cruel discrimination by one racial group to control another.

Arab Nationals

- is not limited to a specific religion; it encompasses Arabic-speaking individuals in Palestine, including Arabic-speaking Muslims, Arab Christians and other religious communities like the Samaritans and Druze during that period. See: Samaritans; Druze





Balfour Declaration

The Balfour Declaration implied that Palestinians could be overwhelmed by unrestricted immigration, risking the loss of control over Palestine to the Zionist pursuit of exclusive sovereignty in a region predominantly Arab in population and culture at that time. In a letter dated November 2, 1917, British Foreign Secretary Lord Arthur Balfour conveyed to Lord Lionel Rothschild of the World Zionist Federation: "His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." Two years later, Balfour, reflecting on the declaration, commented : "For in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country, though the American Commission has been going through the form of asking what they are. The four great powers are committed to Zionism and Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long tradition, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land. In my opinion that is right." In 1948, Israel's Declaration of Independence recognized the Balfour Declaration as acknowledging the right of Jews to national restoration in Palestine.

“...For in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country,...”



Belt Fire

the technique used by Israeli missiles to target entire residential areas with multiple missiles at the same time.

Borders

Israel has never officially defined its borders. When David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel in 1948, he avoided specifying borders, stating it was created in the “Western part of our country.” Ben-Gurion envisioned a dynamic state for expansion to accommodate Jews worldwide. The border issue is contentious, with some Israelis viewing the West Bank as Judea and Samaria and as part of Greater or Eretz Israel. Peace groups like Gush Shalom advocate for the pre-1967 borders, or green line as the “border of peace,” aligning with agreements at Taba in 2001, later repudiated by Israel.

Break-the-bones policy

During the first intifada, Israeli army commanders, under Defense Minister Yitzhak Abin’s orders, were told to break the bones of Palestinian protesters. Today, this strategy has shifted to specifically aim at the knees and legs of Palestinian youth to disable them. See; Intifada.

Bypass Roads

Israel constructed highways on seized Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza to ease travel for Jewish settlers to Jerusalem, Israeli cities, and settlements. From 1977 to 1999, 750 miles of these roads were built, frequently dividing Palestinian communities and making it impossible for farmers’ to access their fields. Bypass roads effectively extend Israel’s borders beyond the green line and around an expanded Jerusalem. See; Jerusalem.



Carpet Bombing

AKA Saturation Bombing. A widespread bombardment conducted systematically to inflict damage across all regions of a designated land area in a gradual manner. Long since banned by international law, Israel and the United States have now made 1.8 million+ Gazans homeless since Oct 07, 2023. They've destroyed hundreds of schools, hospitals, and mosques. They've destroyed bakeries and colleges. They've leveled hundreds of thousands of homes. See: Collective Punishment

Casualties

A neutral word. Reporters and editors must exercise caution by employing equivalent terms for both sides in the conflict. Opt for "killed" rather than died," and include names for both sides when reporting individuals who are killed or injured.

Catastrophisation

British-Palestinian Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta who worked at the al-Shifa and al-Alhi Baptist hospitals in Gaza since the 7th of October 2023 till the 18th of November 2023 explained that the health system in Gaza is in a severe crisis because both healthcare facilities and essential human needs are deliberately targeted. Attacks on food, fuel, water, and direct assaults on people create a "perfect storm," leading to a self-sustaining catastrophe in Gaza that will outlive the bullet and the bomb. The destruction of infrastructure means many in Gaza may die due to a lack of basic necessities for treating injuries and preventing illnesses, significantly increasing the war's death toll. To stop this cycle, it is crucial to provide the fundamental requirements for life.

Censorship

Digital censorships by social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, X and Tiktok of Pro-Palestine content include shadowbanning words like "genocide", "free palestine" and taking down posts with the word "Palestine" for violating "community headlines" and imposing constant telecommunications shut downs and internet black outs in the Gaza strip since October 07,2023 during which massacres have been committed Claim without instant sharing access. See: Digital Apartheid

Checkpoint

The Israeli Defense Forces or Border Police built a barrier to restrict Palestinian movement. While Israeli citizens and foreigners usually pass through checkpoints unhindered, Palestinians with permits often face severe delays and humiliation. On occasion, deaths, including instances involving pregnant women in labor, have occurred at these checkpoints, unable to reach hospitals. Additionally, prolonged delays at checkpoints have led to the spoilage of farm produce, particularly from Gaza, lasting up to several days. See: Closure; IDF.

Christianity

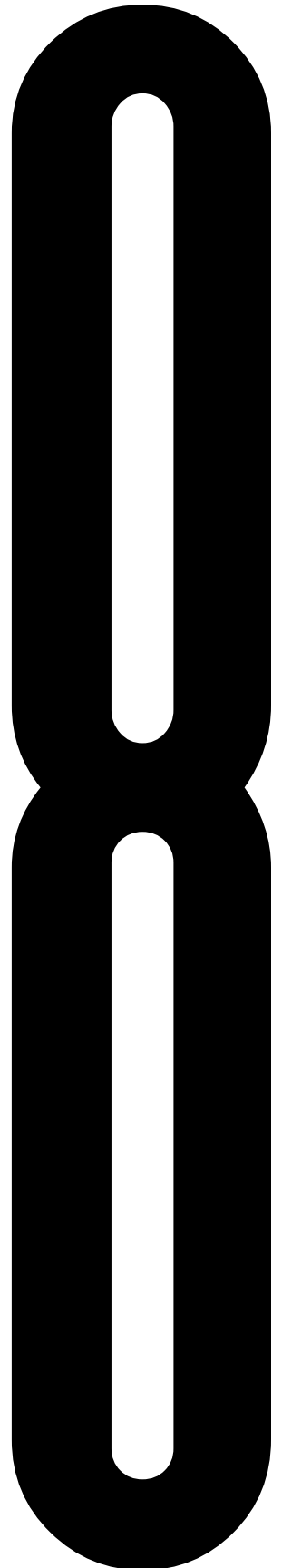
The faith observed by Christians, followers of Jesus, who was born in what is now Israel and the West Bank. According to biblical tradition, Jesus also visited parts of what are now Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. For the branches of Christianity, see: Christians.

Citizenship, Nationality

In Israel, there exists a crucial differentiation between citizenship and nationality. While both Israeli Jews and non-Jews, predominantly Palestinian Arabs, are citizens with voting rights, Israel makes a distinction between citizens who are Jewish nationals and those who are not. In 1952, the Citizenship/Jewish Nationality Law was enacted, granting Israeli citizenship and Jewish nationality status to all Jews worldwide upon immigration to Israel. This grants them automatic eligibility for significant rights and benefits provided by the state or its semi-governmental organizations, rights and benefits denied to non-Jewish nationals, even if their families have resided on the land for generations.

Claim

Word used by western media when sharing information and happenings in Palestine by Palestinians and pro-palestinians.



“Clashes”

Word employed by western media narratives. To clash implies a confrontation with visibly equal force, such as two swords or two punches - a live bullet does not “clash” with a defenseless body. The term “clash” as an intransitive verb obscures the cause and subject of the action, akin to passive voice. It often suggests an eruption of violence between two equal sides or an unidentified instigator. This vague term overlooks the enduring power imbalance between the Israeli Defense Forces and the stateless Palestinians they rule, simplifying the situation into “both side” skirmishes. This effectively erases the historical context, hindering the reader’s comprehensive understanding of the situation. **How can it be clashes when one side has guns and catapults and the other has military grade equipment, white phosphorous, drones, tanks, steel coated rubber bullets?**

Colonies

The term used by Palestinians and others to describe settlements established by the Israeli government in the occupied territories. see. settlements. (Not “communities” as portrayed by western media narratives.)

Competing Narratives

A phrase that appears in the British press often. This expression simplifies the complex reality by treating the situation as if two groups are merely sharing different historical stories. However, it overlooks the fact that, for instance, one group may be occupied while the other is the occupier. This portrayal eliminates the concepts of justice, injustice, oppression, or oppressing, reducing the situation to a friendly competition of narratives. The analogy likens it to a football match, suggesting a level playing field where both sides deserve equal time in every story.

“The term ‘clash’ ... overlooks the enduring power imbalance between the IDF and the stateless Palestinians...”



11

Dehumanisation

For decades, there has been a deliberate effort to dehumanise Palestinians through racist narratives and Orientalist stereotypes. This has become especially evident in the past few months, with U.S. and Israeli leaders promoting fear, paranoia, and anti-Arab rhetoric reminiscent of the post-9/11 era. The goal of this racist language is to dehumanise Palestinians, aiming to quell public outrage despite the potential for one of the most severe cases of ethnic cleansing since the 1948 Nakba and a genocide orchestrated by one of the world's most advanced militaries. All the while, global powers remain passive observers. This dehumanisation is apparent as the U.S., Israel, and their allies justify the mass murder of people held in the world's largest open-air prison.

Detention

Administrative and Juvenile : Administrative detention means holding people without charging them or giving them a trial. This is allowed by international law, but there are strict rules. According to B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, Israel breaks these rules. They hold Palestinians for a long time without a trial and without telling them why. Israel even detains Palestinian children, which goes against international rules. From 2000 to 2002, 1,000 Palestinians inside Israel and 1,850 (including over 600 children) from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza were detained. B'Tselem says that 85 percent of detainees are tortured during questioning. See: Geneva Conventions.

Digital Apartheid

In 1984, Palestinian American scholar Edward Said argued that Palestinians were denied the "permission to narrate." Over 30 years later, in 2020, Maha Nassar, a Palestinian American Professor at the University of Arizona, analysed opinion articles in major U.S. publications from 1970 to 2019. Her findings revealed that editorial boards and columnists often discussed Palestinians in condescending and racist ways without giving much space for Palestinian voices. In April, online platforms like Zoom, Facebook, and Youtube blocked an academic event titled "Whose Narratives? What Free Speech for Palestine?" co-sponsored by the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies program at San Francisco State University, the Council of UC Faculty Associations, and the University of California Humanities Research Institute. These are a few examples out of many. See: Apartheid; Censorship.

Disputed Territories

AKA disputed land or administered territories, these terms are used by Israel, the United States, and some western media to downplay or confuse the status of regions occupied by Israel in 1967. Colin Powell, as Secretary of State under George W. Bush, directed U.S. diplomats to label occupied Palestinian land as 'disputed land,' a term widely adopted by American media. A more accurate term is 'occupied territories.' See: Geneva Conventions; Judea and Samaria.

Dispossess

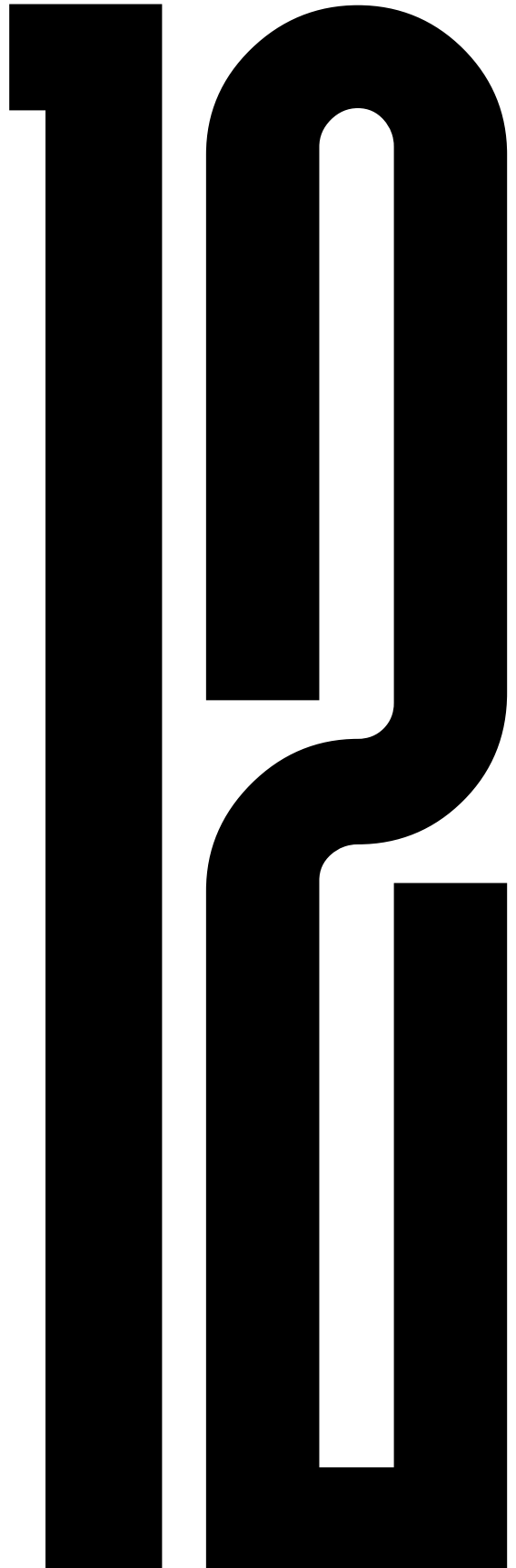
A key element of Israel's apartheid system. Israel forcibly displaced much of the Palestinian population during its 1948 establishment and continued this during the 1967 wars. For the past 50 years, Israel has evicted thousands of Palestinians, occupying their land and establishing settlements exclusively for Jewish Israelis. The term "evict" is often used by mainstream media. See: Evictions.

Druze

Druze People belonging to a clandestine religious community with origins in both Christianity and Islam. This group includes Israeli Arabs in northern Israel, as well as Druze in Syria and Lebanon. See: Israeli Arabs.

Dimona

A facility in the Negev Desert where Israel manufactures nuclear weapons. In "The Samson Option," Seymour Hersh reveals that by the mid-1980s, Dimona technicians had produced numerous low-yield neutron warheads capable of harming enemy troops with minimal property damage. Israel's sophisticated arsenal allows leaders like Ariel Sharon to consider reshaping the Middle East with the threat of nuclear force. Notably, Israel has declined to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.





East Jerusalem

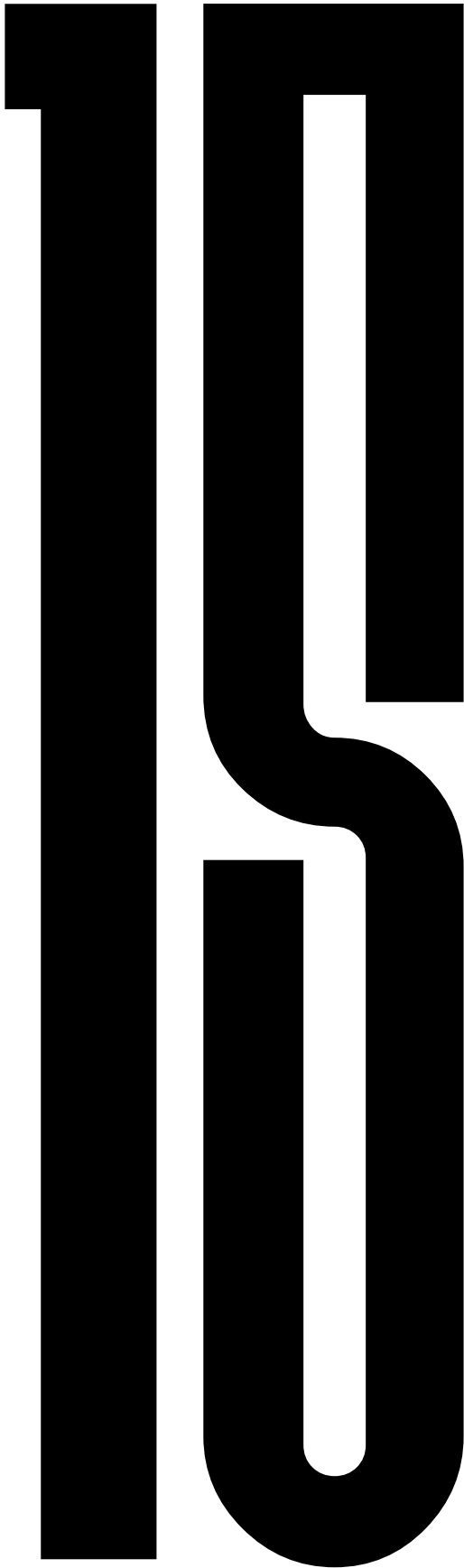
Often called Arab East Jerusalem, this region was captured by Israel in 1967 and is considered occupied territory under international law. Despite being part of the unified Jerusalem municipality, it lacks adequate public services, especially in areas with settlements. Home to most Muslim and Christian residents, East Jerusalem includes the Old City and the Mount of Olives. Many international NGOs are based here, and Palestinians envision it as the capital of their future state. See: Jerusalem.

Embassy, Consulates

AKA the Christian embassy. While Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital, most countries, including the U.S., keep their embassies in Tel Aviv. Despite congressional pressure, every U.S. president since Reagan has resisted moving the embassy to Jerusalem. In 1989, the U.S. leased land on Hebron Road for an embassy, but title issues arose as the land was confiscated from Palestinians. The International Christian Embassy in West Jerusalem, representing certain ideological Christians supporting Israel, is not recognized by historic churches in the Holy Land, and Israel does not endorse its conservative theology. See: Christian Zionism.

Ethnic Cleansing

Commonly and incorrectly termed as 'conflict' - the systematic and forced removal of a particular ethnic or religious group from a specific geographic area. The displacement of Palestinians from their homes and land during the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and subsequent conflicts. The process involves various measures such as mass expulsions, home destruction, and the establishment of settlements, with the aim of altering the demographic composition of the region in favor of a particular ethnic or religious group, i.e. Zionist settlers. The term underscores the intentional and organized nature of actions leading to the removal of a targeted population. Ethnic cleansing may include eradicating all tangible traces of the targeted group by demolishing monuments, cemeteries, and places of worship.



Euphemism

A technique mainly used by western media. This refers to the use of mild or indirect language to downplay or soften the impact of harsh or sensitive issues related to the 'Israeli-Palestinian conflict.' Euphemisms are often employed to describe situations or actions in a less direct or blunt manner, potentially influencing public perception or minimizing the severity of certain events. This linguistic strategy can be observed in discussions about land disputes, displacement, and other contentious matters, where softer language may be used to describe complex and often challenging realities.

Evictions

Implies a landlord-tenant real estate dispute. Many U.S. news outlets framed it in 2021 as a response to the potential “eviction” of a Palestinian neighborhood, Sheikh Jarrah, in East Jerusalem, but the expulsion of 27 families from Sheikh Jarrah is part of an Israeli government policy aimed at controlling the Palestinian population to maintain an artificially skewed demographic balance that keeps them in the minority. However, this characterisation often overlooks the ongoing issues of mass displacement, military occupation, political repression, and imposed poverty. The accurate term would be dispossession. See: Dispossession; Ethnic Cleansing





Fatah

The leading constituent group of the Palestine Liberation Organization, established in 1959, with its armed struggle for Palestinian liberation commencing in January 1965. Yasir Arafat, Fatah's leader, became the chairman of the P.L.O.'s executive committee in 1969. See: P.L.O.

Filistin, Filistini, Philistine

The Philistines, ancient rivals of the Israelites in biblical times, are distinct from the modern context. While Filistin, the Arabic term for Palestine, sounds similar to Philistine, they are not synonymous. Filistini (plural, Filistiniun) refers to Palestinians in Arabic. It's essential not to use Philistine interchangeably with Filistini.

Foreign Aid to Egypt

Over the last 21 years, the United States has provided an average annual aid of \$2.2 billion to Egypt as a result of an agreement aimed at incentivising Egypt to both, sign and uphold the 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Foreign Aid to Israel

U.S. assistance to Israel comprises federal loans, grants, and tax-deductible donations from entities and individuals. This aid is distinctive because: a) the entire annual grant is provided upfront, allowing Israel to accrue interest; b) it comes with no specific conditions, unlike aid to other nations; c) since 1984, the U.S. allocates extra funds to cover Israel's loan debts; d) the yearly U.S. aid to Israel surpasses that of any other country. According to U.S. government estimates, total aid to Israel since 1948 is around \$90 billion, approximately \$15,000 per citizen. Additionally, Germany has provided Israel with about \$31 billion in grants and preferred loans over the years. See: Jewish National Fund.

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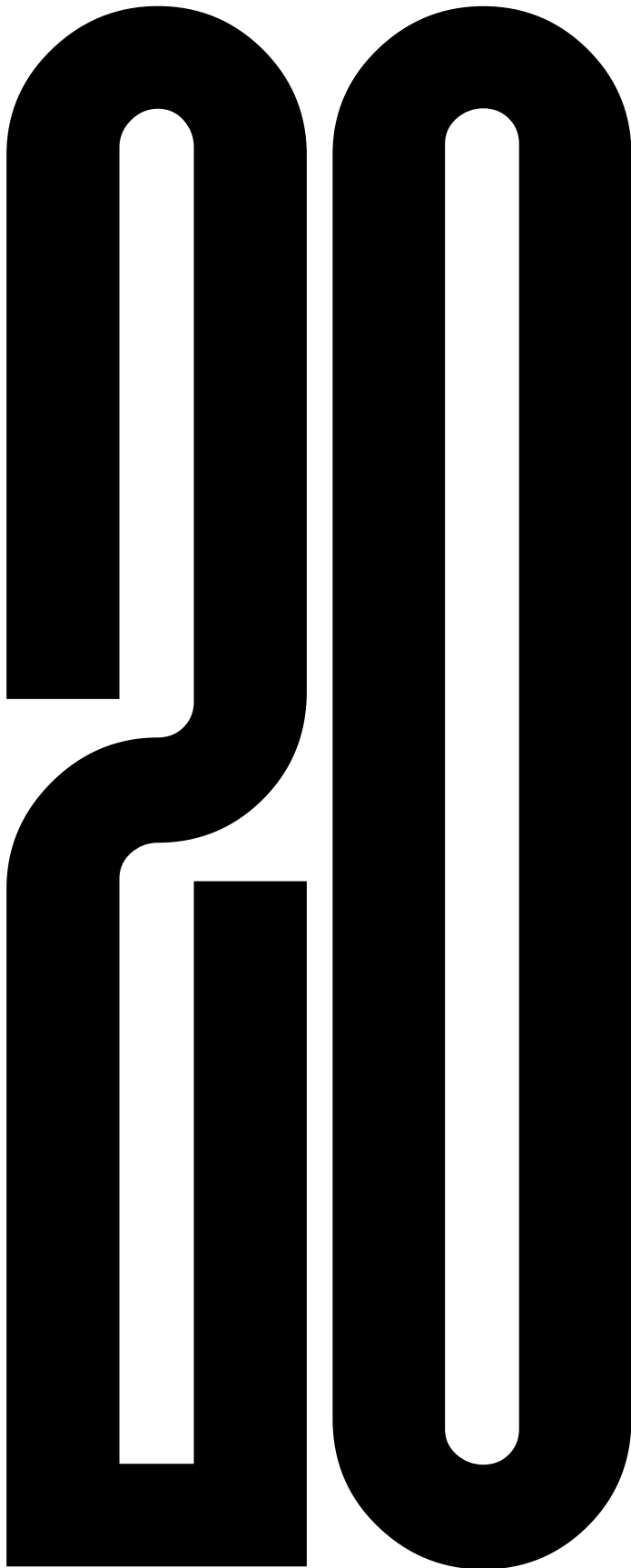
Framing

A technique mainly used by western media. The deliberate selection and presentation of information in a way that shapes the interpretation of events or issues. It involves the use of language, imagery, and narrative techniques to influence how audiences perceive and understand a particular topic. Media outlets can frame news stories to emphasise certain aspects, downplay others, or present events from a specific perspective, thereby shaping the audience's perception and interpretation of the underlying issues. Framing plays a crucial role in influencing public opinion, constructing narratives, and contributing to the overall discourse surrounding the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. Examples include Israel always claiming their military action is necessary for self-defense and national security. They emphasise the need to protect its citizens from the "threat" of Palestinian terrorist attacks. Normalisation of conflict : by highlighting that certain Palestinian groups are launching the attack first on Israel. This justifies the Israel attacks as a response to restoring peace. Historical and Religious Aspects : emphasizing Israel's historical and religious ties to the region, citing ancient connections to the land and the need to protect sacred sites.

Fundamentalist

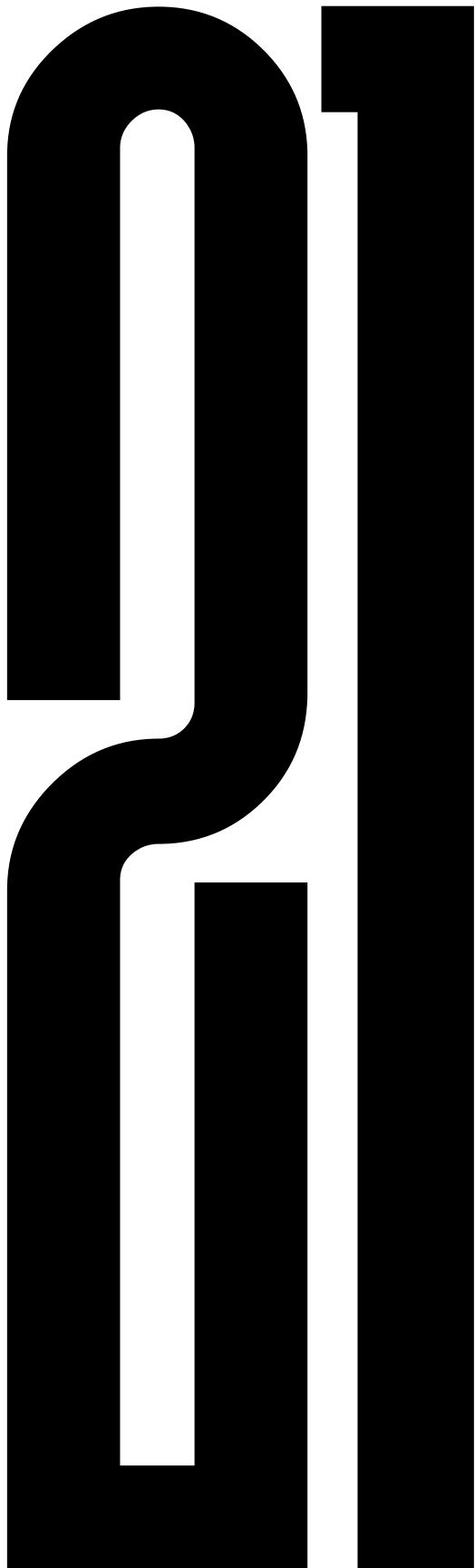
Originally referred to an orthodox traditionalist within a religious community. However, in recent times, it has taken on a negative connotation when used to caricature those who use their faith's fundamentals to advocate for a radical political agenda. When used accurately, a fundamentalist is an orthodox adherent to a specific faith. Inappropriately, the term can imply a political approach linked to violence, where the individual justifies their agenda using sacred texts. While legitimate in academic discussions, in broader discourse, terms like extremist, radical, or fanatic may be more precise. See: Terrorism.





Gaza, Gaza Strip

The world's largest open-air prison among the most densely populated areas globally, spans 25 miles in length and five miles in width along the southeastern Mediterranean coast. The smaller of the two Palestinian territories wherein a blockade has been ongoing since 2005. Sea and air travel to and from Gaza is forbidden, with only three crossings available—two under Israeli control and one under Egyptian control. Originally designated as part of the Arab sector in the 1947 U.N. partition plan, it was administered by Egypt after the 1947-48 war. Gaza City, its main urban center, houses a third of the Strip's 1.02 million residents, mainly refugees. Following Israel's occupation in 1967, exclusive settlements for Jews were established. Under the Oslo Accords, except for these settlements and closed military zones, the remaining 60 percent of Gaza came under Palestinian Authority control. Notably, Gaza lacks direct continuity with the West Bank, and the "safe passage" road, outlined in a May 4, 1994 agreement, is currently closed. On 9 October 2023, Israel imposed a total blockade/siege of the Gaza Strip, blocking the entry of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity. See: Oslo; Settlements; West Bank; Siege.



Gaza-Israel Barrier

A sensor-equipped underground wall on its side of Gaza, a countermeasure developed after Hamas used tunnels to repel its troops during a 2014 invasion of the besieged Palestinian territory. This includes an above-ground fence, a naval barrier, radar systems and command and control rooms. It was constructed by Israel to control the movement of people as well as goods between the Gaza Strip and Israel, which it could not achieve by normal border crossings. See: Siege

Generous Offer

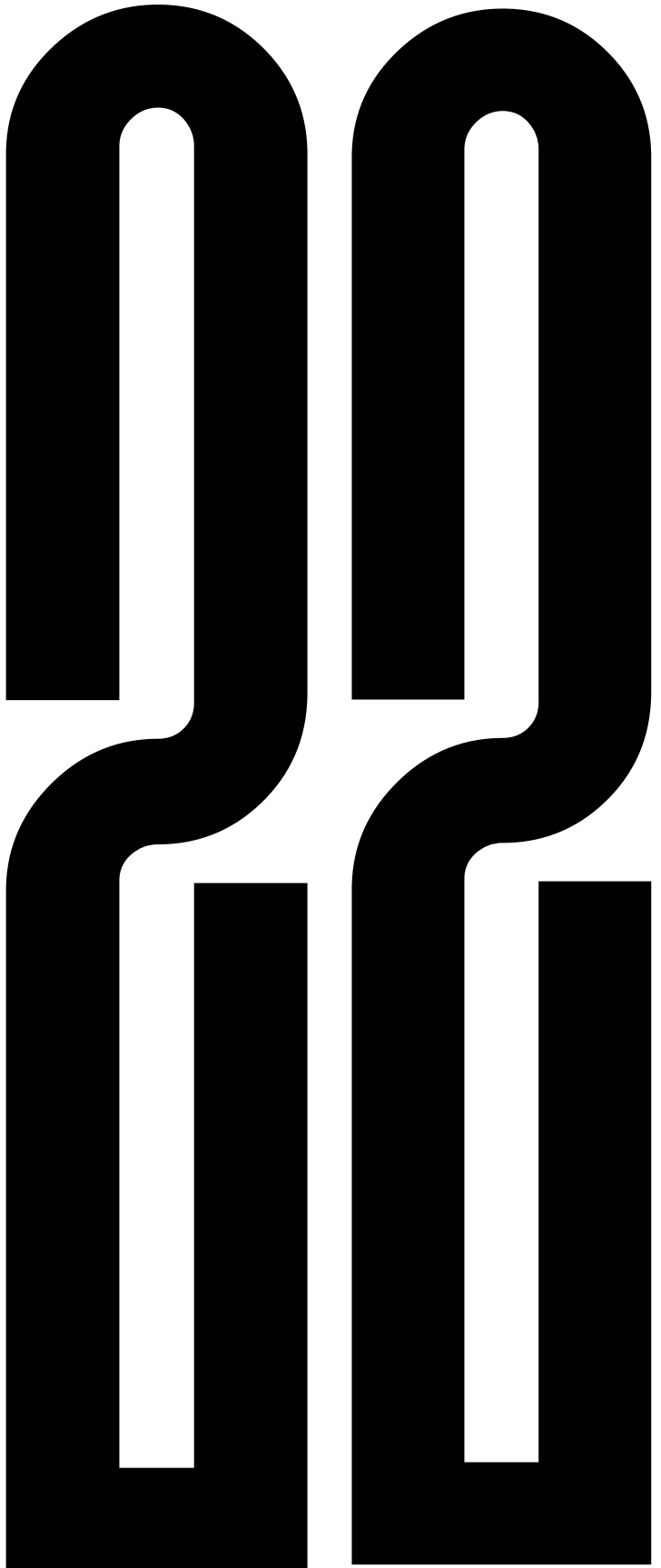
After the Camp David meetings in July 2000 failed, Palestinian Authority President Yasir Arafat faced criticism for rejecting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's undisclosed "generous offer." This offer proposed maintaining 69 settlements in 10 percent of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Israel would retain full military control over an additional 10 percent along the Jordan River, described as "temporary control." This arrangement would persist indefinitely, with all West Bank borders under Israeli authority, restricting international movement. Settlement blocks would be linked by Israeli-controlled roads, dividing the West Bank into isolated cantons. Access to crucial water resources and the right of Palestinian refugees to return were also contentious points. Israeli peace organisations, like Gush Shalom, deemed the offer impossible and a mere "fig leaf." [www.gush-shalom.org/] See: Borders; Green Line; Law of Return; Settlements; West Bank.

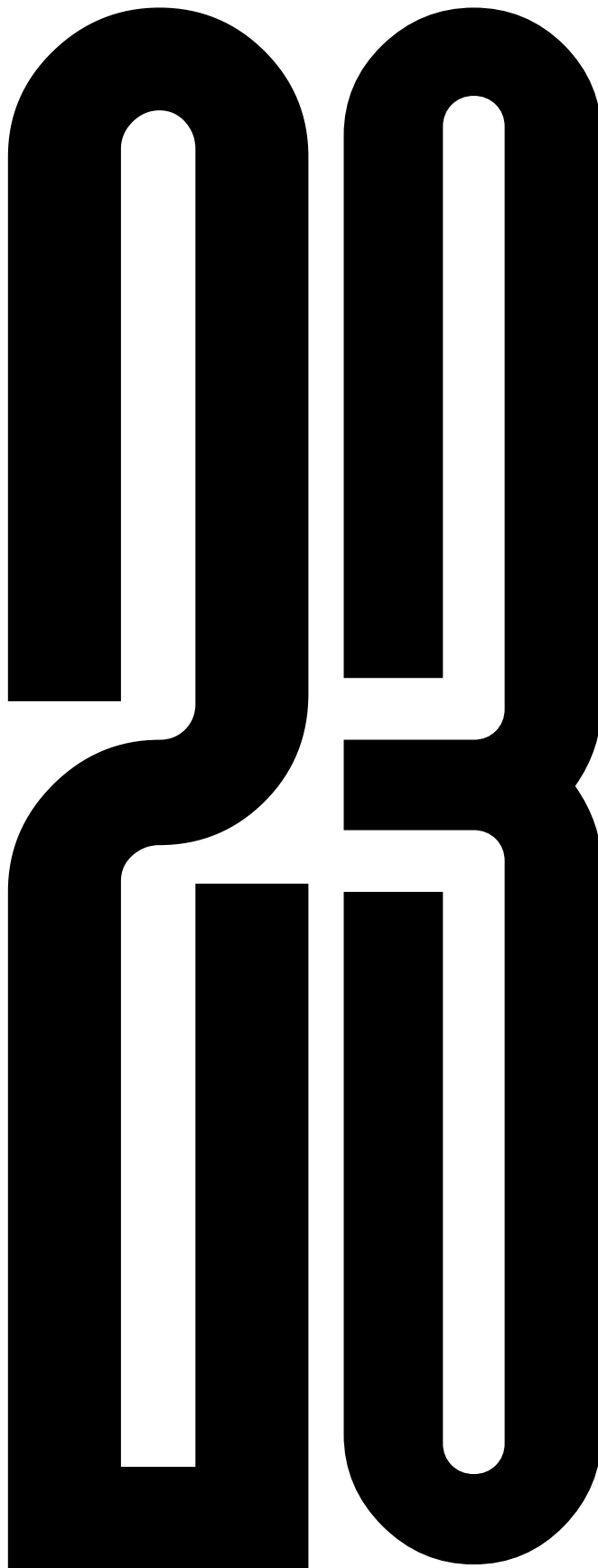
Geneva Conventions

The Four Geneva Conventions, established post-WWII, include the Fourth Geneva Convention, signed by Israel on August 12, 1949. This convention protects individuals in occupied territories, placing responsibility on the occupying power for their welfare. It prohibits coercion, corporal punishment, torture, property confiscation, and collective punishment, and bars the occupying power from transferring its population into the occupied territory. U.N. resolutions have cited this against West Bank and Gaza settlements. Israel contends the Fourth Geneva Convention doesn't apply to its occupation. See: U.N. Resolutions

Genocide

Coined in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, a Jewish Polish legal scholar. Lemkin clarified that genocide doesn't necessarily mean mass killings but often involves a coordinated plan to destroy the essential foundations of the life of national groups, causing them to wither and die. This destruction can occur through forced disintegration of political and social institutions, erasure of culture, language, national feelings, and religion, as well as by undermining personal security, liberty, health, and dignity. In extreme cases, the use of violence, like machine guns, may be employed as a last resort. Genocide is primarily directed against a national group as a whole, and attacks on individuals are secondary to the annihilation of the targeted national group.





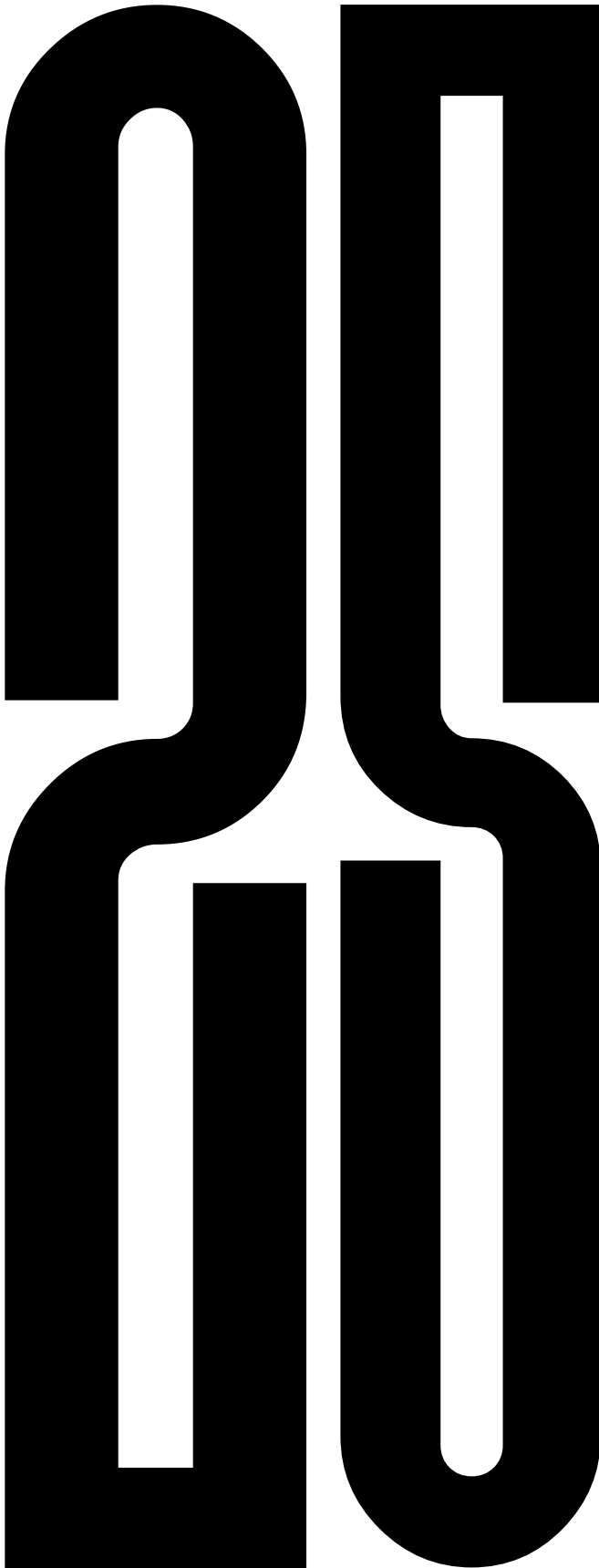
Golan Heights

Parts of the elevated plateau in southwestern Syria were captured by Israel in 1967, with further land taken in 1973. In December 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights without international agreement. According to international law, the Golan Heights are recognized as part of the occupied territories. See: Occupied Territories.

Green Line

The green line, established by the 1949 Rhodes armistice agreement, delineates the separation between Israel and the West Bank. Since 1967, it has served as the boundary between Israel and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, encompassing 22 percent of pre-1948 Palestine. As part of the Oslo Accords in 1996, Palestinians recognised Israel within the green line, conceding 78 percent of historic Palestine. In certain areas, like north of Bethlehem, Israel has expanded its control, prompting the term “creeping green line.” See: Borders; Generous Offer.





Hamas

(Acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement). Formed in 1987 as an extension of the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas is involved in social-communal initiatives and armed resistance against Israel's occupation. Led by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, it operates primarily in the Gaza Strip and specific areas of the West Bank, boasting tens of thousands of members and supporters.

Hamas-run, Hamas-led

Words employed by western media to desensitise and downplay Palestinian victims. Examples include 'Hamas-led Health Ministry' and "Hamas-run hospitals"

Hebron

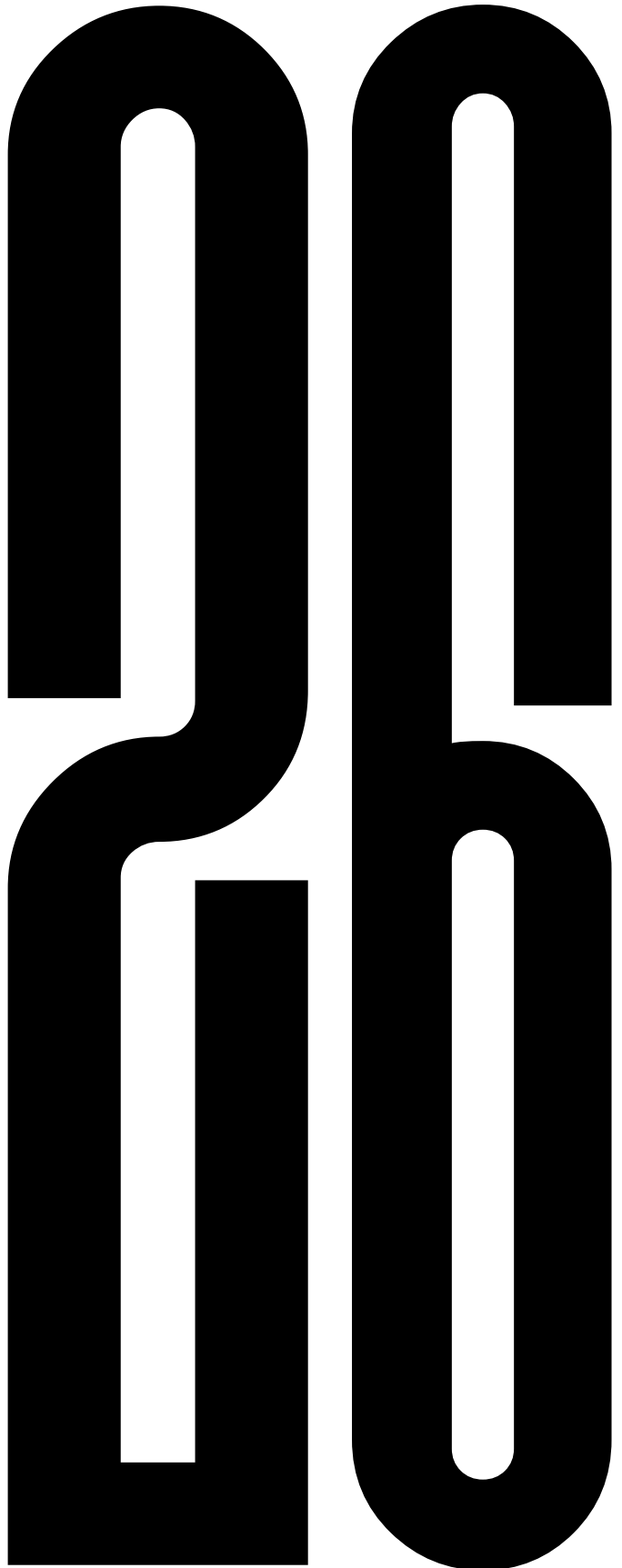
Hebron, the largest city in the West Bank, has around 125,000 Palestinian residents. While 80 percent of Hebron (H1) is under Palestinian administration, Israel controls key access routes. In the Old City (H2), occupied by the Israeli military, about 35,000 Palestinians live alongside 400 settlers guarded by 1,200 Israeli soldiers. The Ibrahimi Mosque, also known as the Cave of Machpela, is a significant religious site believed to be the burial place of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, and Leah. This site was divided in 1994-95 after settler Baruch Goldstein massacred 29 Muslims. International observer groups, including the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), monitor the area. and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), monitor activities in H2. Hebron is situated approximately 45 miles south of Jerusalem.

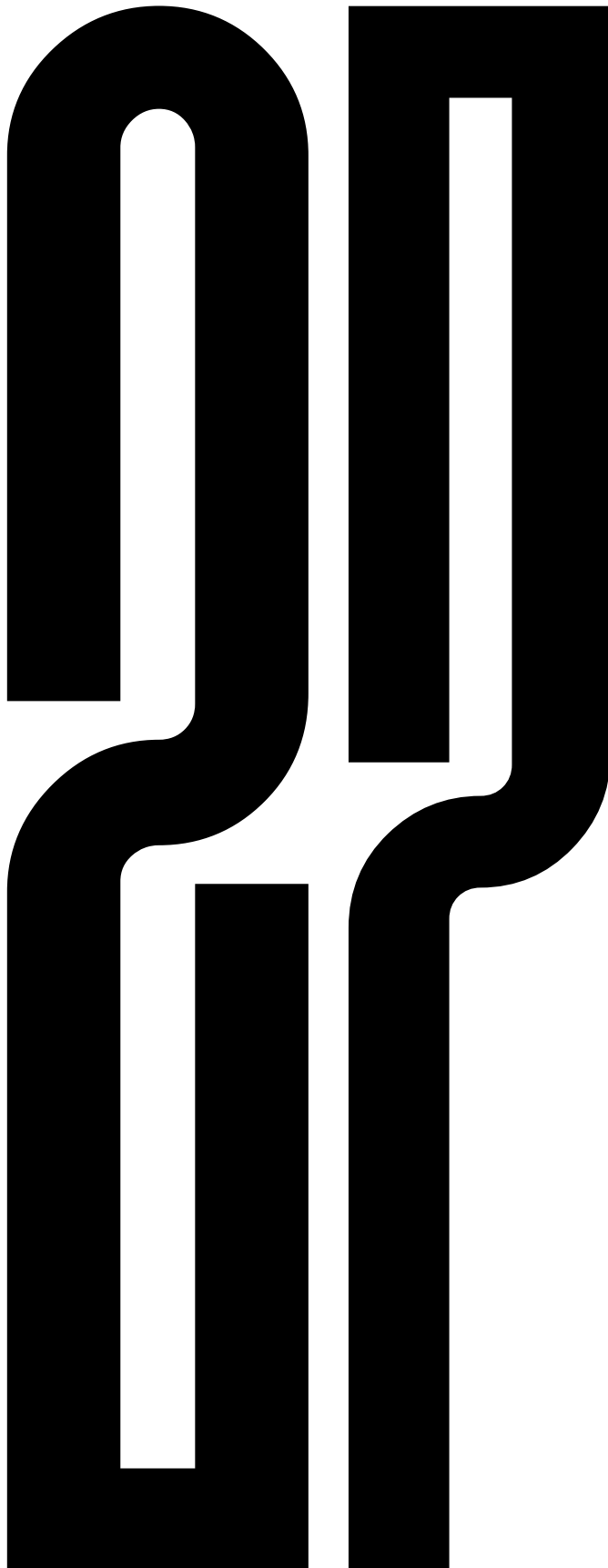
Hezbollah

An Islamic political movement and party primarily operating in Beirut, the Beqa' Valley, and South Lebanon. Beginning in 1983, Hezbollah conducted attacks against Israeli forces in South Lebanon, resulting in Israel's eventual withdrawal in May 2000.

Holy City, Holy Land, Holy Place

The term "Holy Land" commonly refers to Israel, the West Bank, and parts of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, associated with biblical events and Prophet Muhammad's visit to Al Aqsa Mosque. Jerusalem, particularly the Old City, is considered the Holy City by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Key Holy Places include sites associated with King David, Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Mary, and Prophet Muhammad. Notable locations include the Western Wall for Jews, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden of Gethsemane for Christians, and the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque for Muslims. Some sites, like the burial place of Abraham in Hebron, the tomb of Joseph in Nablus, and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, are revered by all three faiths.





Home Demolitions

The Israeli government and certain municipalities forcibly evict families and destroy homes, often in response to alleged criminal acts or unauthorized construction. Building permits are costly and frequently denied, causing overcrowded living conditions. The Israeli military or police assist in demolitions, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention. From 1967 to 1999, over 8,500 Palestinian homes were demolished. See: Evictions.

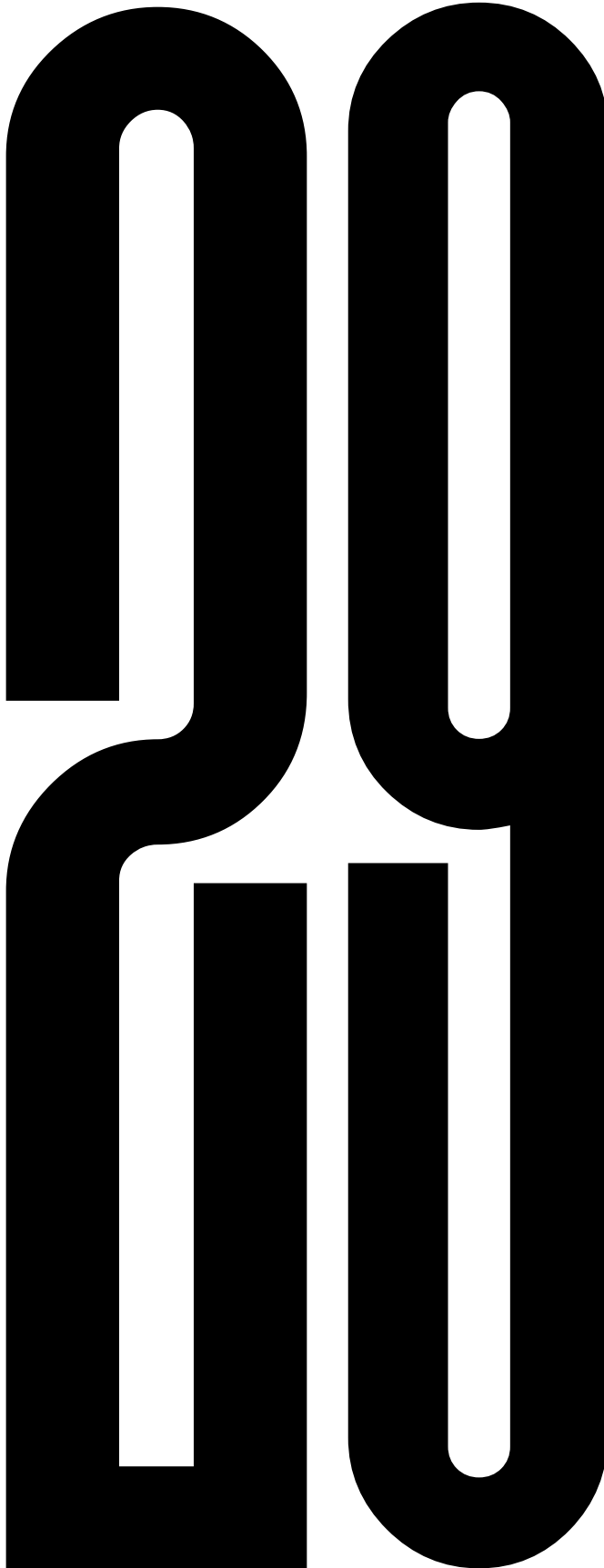
Hospital

A place of medical facilities providing healthcare services, including emergency, diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical treatments to the population. In Gaza, hospitals often face unique challenges due to the geopolitical situation, such as limited resources, infrastructure damage, and restrictions on the movement of people and goods. Hospitals in Gaza have been targeted since October 07, 2023 as military target and “ Hamas headquarters” injuring and killing thousands of displaced and severely injured civilians.

Humanitarian Crisis

Occasionally employed by Western media to depict scarcities of medical resources, food, and water in the West Bank and specifically Gaza. While suggesting a natural disaster or an inevitable outcome of war, these shortages in the occupied territories are typically a direct outcome of Israeli policies. Deliberate interference with civilian access to food and medical supplies is prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention and is technically considered a “war crime.” See: Geneva Convention; War Crime. Near East





IDF

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is the compulsory military service for both men and women in Israel. Some Jewish religious groups are exempted from this service. It is a universal requirement, excluding Israeli Arabs, and serves as the foundation for access to education, health, and other social services. Israeli citizens Tamar Katz, Raz Bar-David Varon and Yuval Oron-Ofir are amongst others who were imprisoned for refusing to join the army. See: Yesh Gvul.

Intifada

An Arabic term meaning “a shaking off,” used to describe the Palestinian uprising from 1987 to 1993. The Al Aqsa, or second, intifada named after Muslim youth considered themselves to be defending the mosque began in 2000 after Ariel Sharon’s visit to Al Haram al Sherif, with approximately 1,500 Palestinians and 35 Israelis killed in the first intifada and 1000+ Palestinians and 200+ Israelis were killed during the first year and a half of the second intifada.

Israel, Israelis, Israelites

Founded in 1948, the modern nation of Israel is occasionally known as the Jewish State, despite around 18 percent of its population not being Jewish. The inhabitants are referred to as Israelis, and the term can function as an adjective (e.g., the Israeli city, Tel Aviv). The Israelites were a biblical people linked to the descendants of Abraham. In historical contexts, Israel denoted the ancient Jewish kingdoms or, at times, the Jewish people collectively.

Israeli Arabs

Arabic-speaking residents of Israel, estimated at one million in 2001, primarily identify as Palestinians. The majority of Arab families have lived in the region since before the establishment of the state in 1948. See: Citizenship, Nationality.

Islam

The faith followed by Muslims, who believe in one God and recognize a line of prophets from Adam to Muhammad. It is one of the three monotheistic religions, along with Judaism and Christianity, all tracing their origins to Ibrahim (Abraham).

Islamic Jihad

Palestinian group established in the mid-1980s by Fathi Shiqaqi and Abdulaziz Odeh. It supports the use of armed resistance for the freedom of Palestine. See: Jihad.





Jihad

Often inaccurately translated as “holy war,” jihad more precisely signifies a Muslim’s “striving” or “struggle” to maintain faith, achieve self-control, personal development, or improve societal life. The “greater jihad” has spiritual implications for devout Muslims, while the Qur’an refers to a “smaller jihad” involving armed struggle for self-protection, akin to a Christian “just war” against tyranny or oppression. Islam does not endorse a “holy war,” and the term *harb muqaddasa* (holy war) is absent from the Qur’an and Hadith. It was adopted by a political movement, the Islamic Jihad. See: Islamic Jihad.

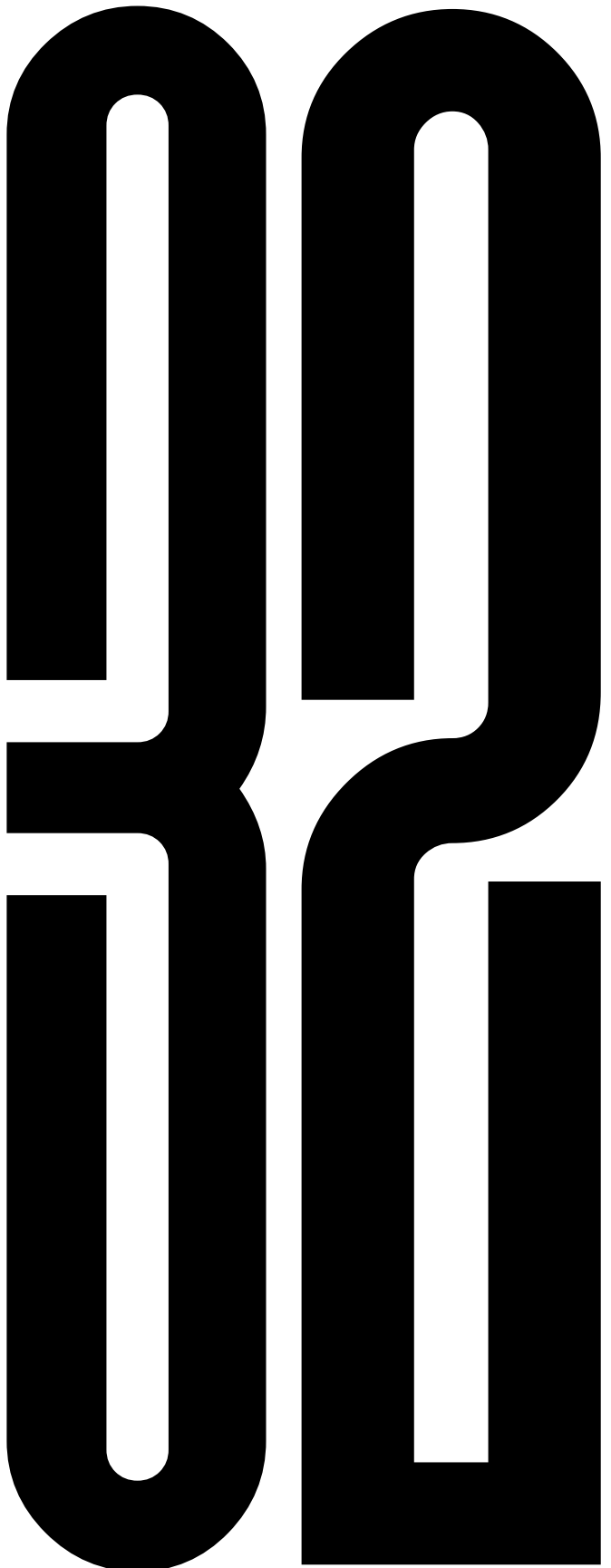
Jerusalem

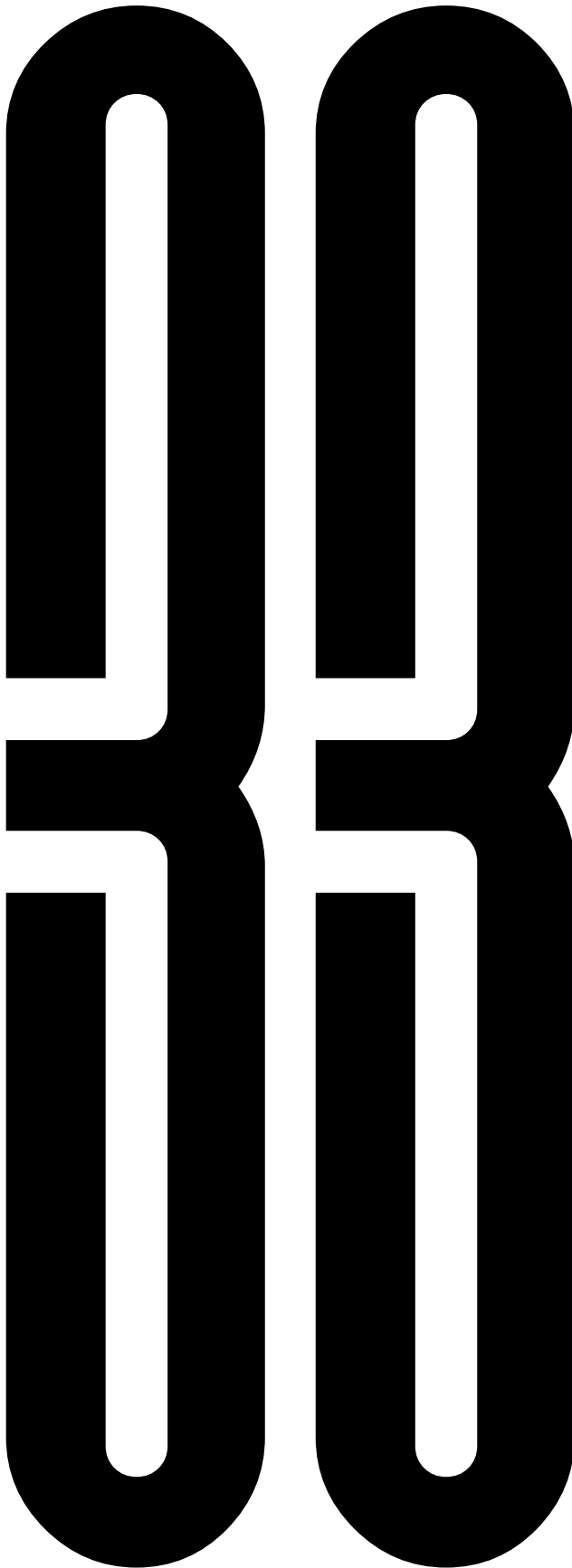
Refers to the city sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Most of the holy sites are within the walled Old City, consisting of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Armenian Quarters. While Israel claims it as its capital, Jerusalem lacks recognition as such by the United States and many other nations. The Knesset and major government offices are situated in West Jerusalem. Despite being part of a unified municipality since 1967, East Jerusalem, per international law, is considered part of the occupied territories. Post-1967 war, Israel unilaterally expanded the city’s boundaries by over 50%. In Hebrew, it’s *Yerushalayim*, and in Arabic, *Al-Quds*. See: East Jerusalem; Divided, Undivided City.

Jewish/Jerusalem

Neighbourhoods

A phrase occasionally used as an euphemism for settlements, particularly those situated in expanded Jerusalem. See: Jerusalem, Settlements, Euphemism





Jewish National Fund

A branch of the World Zionist Organization, the J.N.F. made a covenant with the Israeli government in 1961. In the U.S., it's a tax-exempt entity raising millions for the development of Israel's land, including occupied territories. The J.N.F. owns 93% of Israeli land, mainly seized from Palestinians. Non-Jews are legally barred from owning or working on J.N.F.-acquired land.

Jewish National State

Occasionally employed as an equivalent for Israel, particularly when underscoring its official status with a monolithic religious character. It is also the English translation of Theodor Herzl's 1886 book "Der Judenstaat," signifying "The Jews' State" in German. While "Jewish" denotes the culture of the state, Israel is considered a Jewish country, similar to the United States being a Christian one. Herzl used the possessive "Der Judenstaat," implying a state owned by all Jews globally, envisioning the expulsion of Arabs to establish an exclusive state for Jews. See: Israel; Zionism.

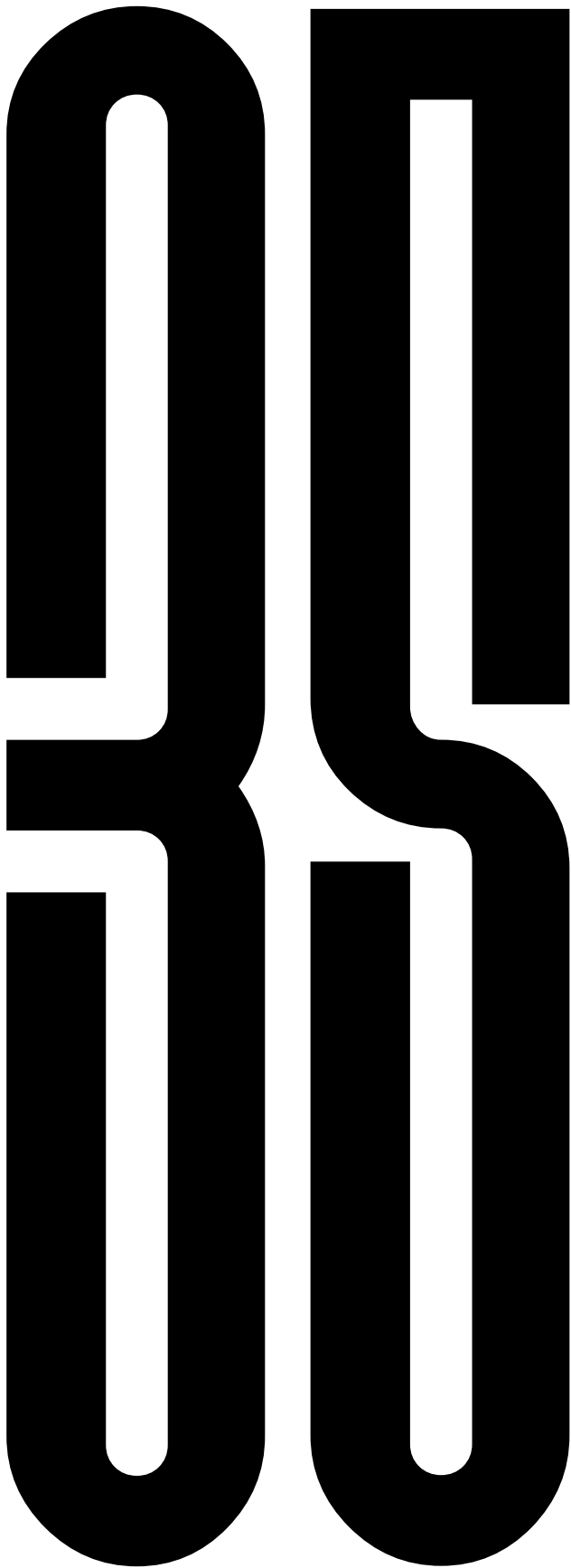
Judea and Samaria

Biblical names for the southern and central areas of Palestine, now in the West Bank; used by some Israelis, including settlers, anticipating or advocating Israel's annexation of the occupied territories. See: Occupied Territories; West Bank.

Judaism

The religious practice of Jews, comprising Conservative, Reform, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist congregations in the U.S. In Israel, Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist congregations lack legal standing. Israeli Jews include Ultra-Orthodox and many "secular" individuals with limited religious practices.





Keffiyeh

In Arabic kufiya", "shemagh" or "hattah" - a square-shaped cotton scarf. It was an essential piece of clothing for the Bedouins of the desert and Fellahi people, who used it as protection from heat and sand storms. It now goes by many names and can be found in numerous Arab countries. Keffiyeh colours, styles and symbolic meanings depend on the country, as red and white is usually associated with Jordan whereas in Palestine, a black and white scarf is mainly worn for the purpose of resistance and solidarity. See: Palestinian Keffiyeh

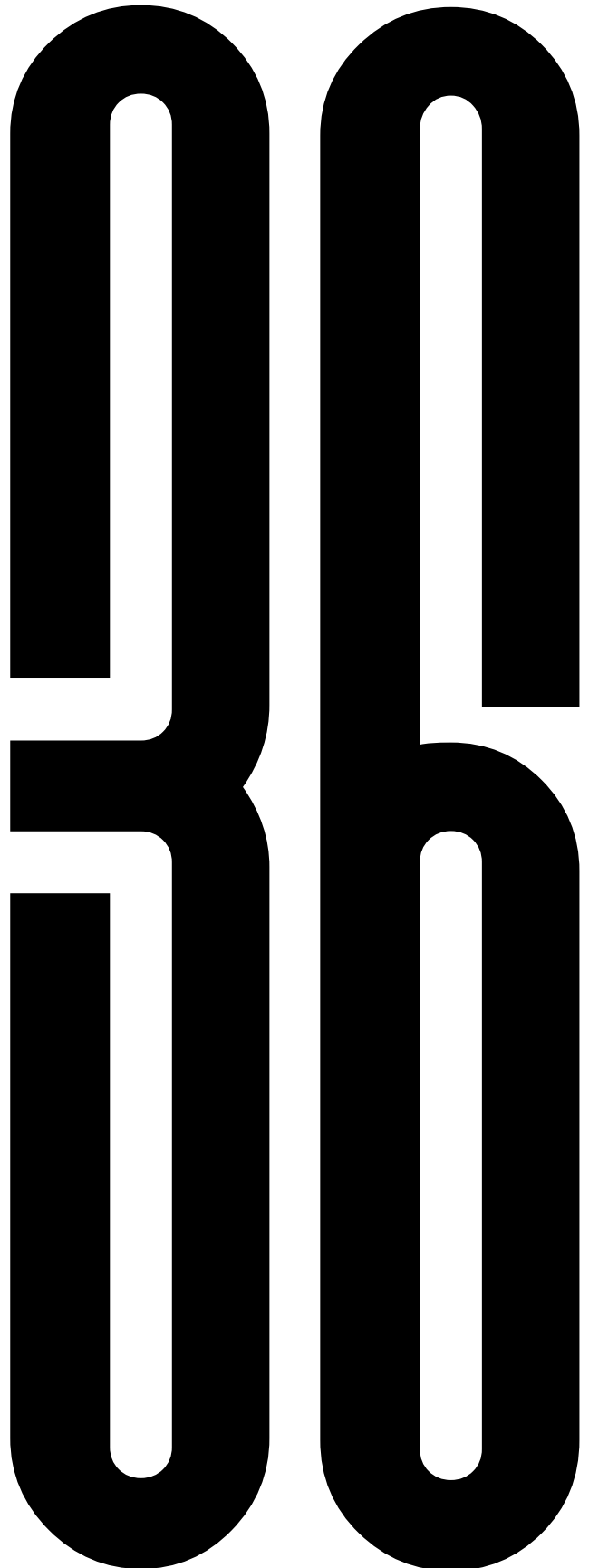
**“...whereas
in Palestine,
a black and
white scarf
is mainly
worn for the
purpose of
resistance
and
solidarity.”**

Kibbutz

Moshav A kibbutz (plural, kibbutzim) is an Israeli community, originally focused on agriculture but increasingly industrial, where most property is collectively owned. In the early development of Israel, kibbutzim contributed to the country's socialist character. A moshav (plural, moshavim) is a cooperative community of small farmers in Israel, owning their property, organising work cooperatively, and jointly marketing their produce.

Knesset

The Israeli parliament and its meeting place. Functioning as a unicameral legislature, the Knesset operates in a modified parliamentary system. The Prime Minister, elected separately, serves as both head of government and a Knesset member. The President, elected independently, acts as the mostly ceremonial head of state. Major parties include the relatively liberal Labor Party and the more conservative Likud Party. In cases of no party securing a majority in the 120-member Knesset, smaller special interest parties, excluding Arab ones, may be invited to form a coalition government, granting them disproportionate influence.





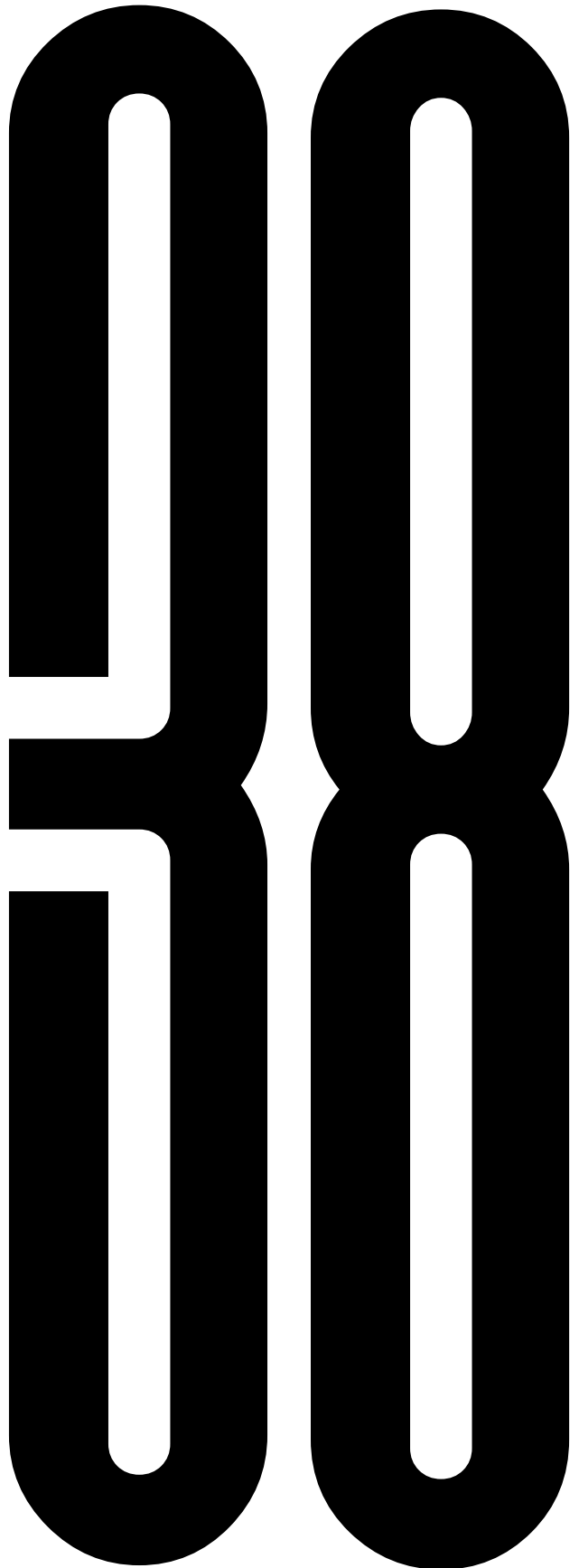
Law of Return

Right of Return

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset passed the Law of Return, granting any Jew worldwide the right to relocate to and settle in Israel. Conversely, the Right of Return advocates the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 13, 15, and 17) from December 10, 1948, and U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 from December 11, 1948. However, Israel opposes the return of Palestinian refugees, fearing it would alter the character and demographics of the Jewish State. See: Refugees; Jewish State.

Lie

Not an allege, is intentionally false or misleading information disseminated through various channels, such as news reports, social media, or other forms of communication. This misinformation distorts or manipulates facts related to the Palestinian struggle, historical events, or the current situation in the region. Lies in this context can contribute to biased narratives, perpetuate stereotypes, and hinder a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues involved.





MK

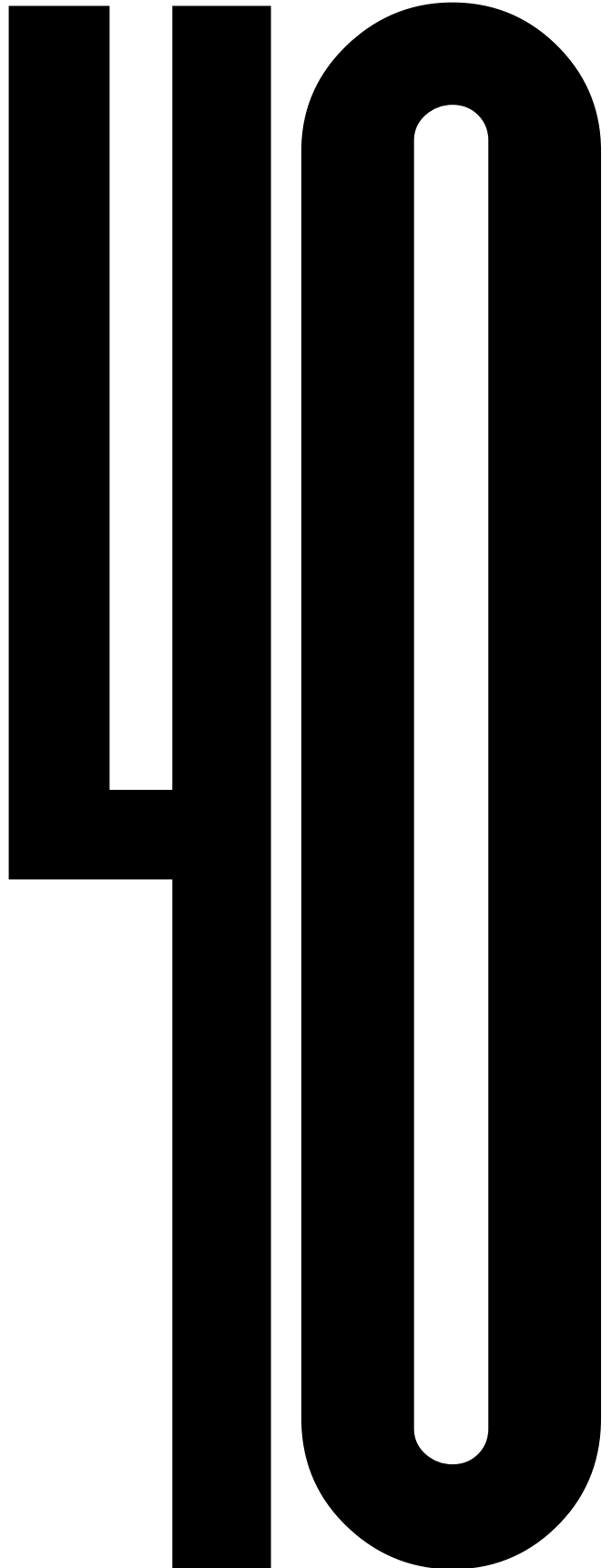
Member of the Knesset. An elected representative in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. See: Knesset.

Mosque

A Muslim place of worship, typically featuring a minaret for the call to prayer. In Jerusalem, the most sacred mosque to Muslims is Al Aqsa Mosque on the compound known as Al Haram al Sherif or Noble Sanctuary. Properly speaking, the Dome of the Rock is not a mosque.

Muslim

A follower of the religion of Islam. The preferred term is Muslim (plural: Muslims), not Moslem. Muslims do not consider themselves disciples of Muhammad in the same way Christians consider themselves disciples of Jesus. There are approximately 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide, with Indonesia having the largest Muslim population. See: Islam





Nakba

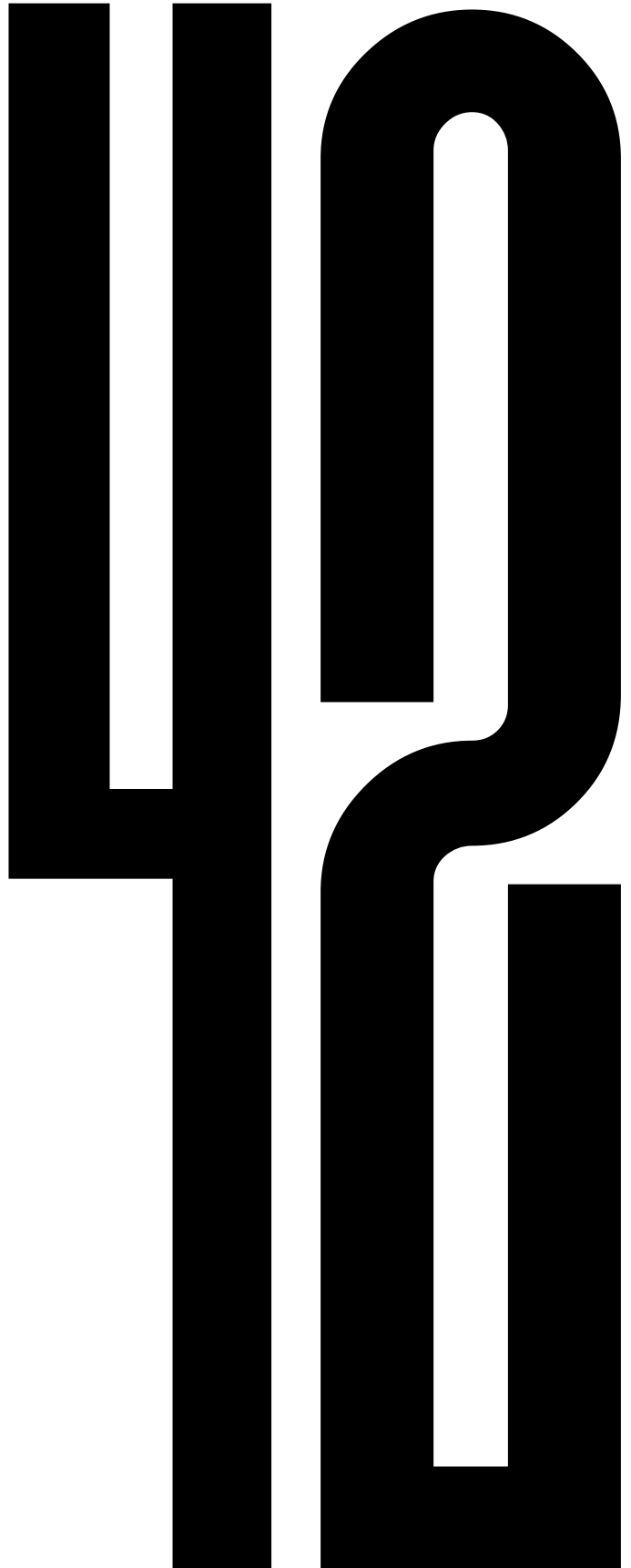
“The Catastrophe.” Al Nakba is the term Palestinians use for the impact of what Israelis call their War of Independence (1947-48). It refers to the creation of the Israeli state, marked by ceremonies on May 15 each year. The term signifies the brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing by Zionist militias, leading to the expulsion of three-quarters of a million Palestinians. “Even the English translation of Nakba — “Catastrophe”— is reductive, because the Nakba wasn’t a sudden disaster, nor is it a tragic relic from the past. It didn’t begin or end in 1948. Rather, it is a planned, organised, and, most important, an ongoing process of ethnic cleansing.”

Near East

An outdated term, no longer widely used in the U.S. Originally designating the area now known as the Middle East. Sometimes used by academics, particularly archaeologists.

Neutral Broker

Avoid using these terms to describe the U.S. role in the peace process. Neutrality is questioned due to the U.S.’s significant financial and military aid to Israel and the perceived “special relationship” between the U.S. and Israel. See: Foreign Aid to Israel; Special Relationship.





Occupation

The control and administration exerted by Israel over certain territories, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, since the Six-Day War in 1967. This occupation involves Israeli military presence, settlement construction, and governmental authority in these areas. Note, it is not a dispute.

Occupied Territories

Territories held by Israel since 1967, including Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai (later returned to Egypt). According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, an occupying power cannot legally acquire land through war or relocate its population into the occupied area. Israel accepted U.N. Resolution 242 for withdrawal from these territories under the Oslo Accords. See: East Jerusalem; Gaza; Geneva Conventions; Golan Heights; West Bank.

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Olive/Trees

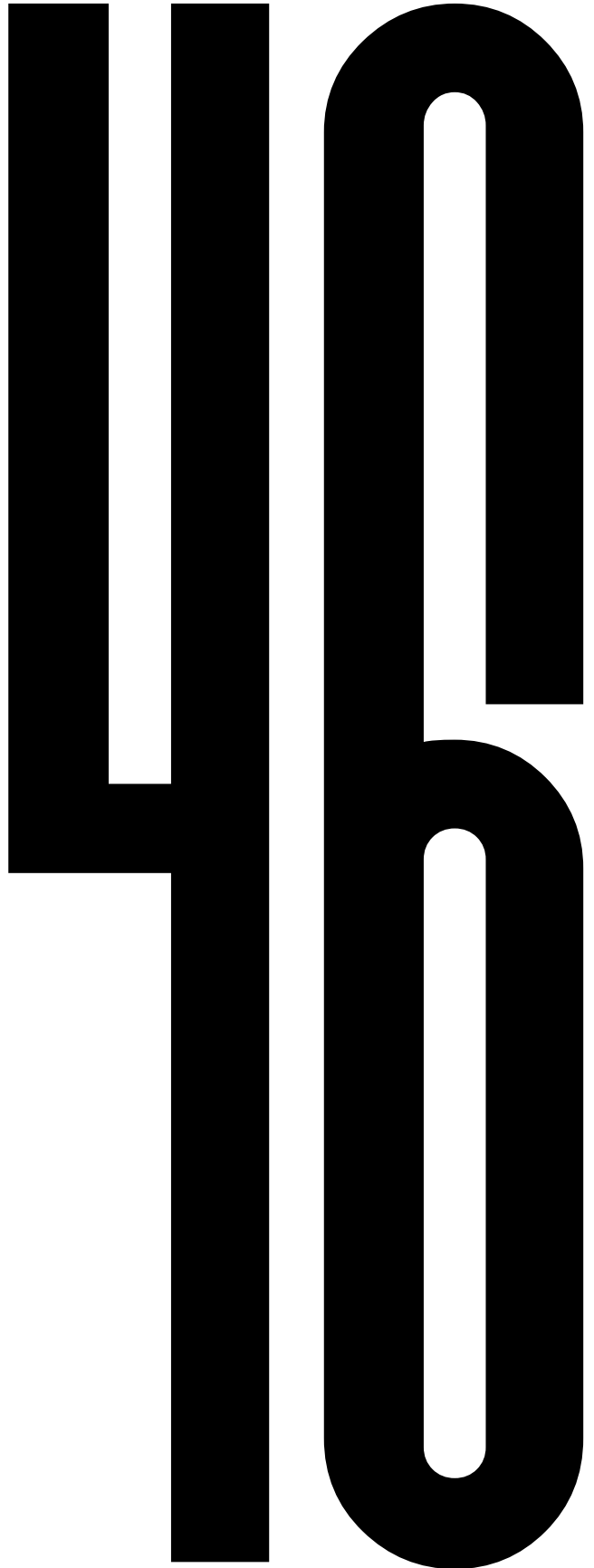
Olive trees are widespread in Palestine and symbolise resistance. Nour Alhoda Akel, a 23-year-old Palestinian, sees them as tied to Palestinian identity, representing a deep connection to the land. Akel emphasises the enduring nature of olive trees, noting that if a tree is a century old, there's an automatic connection to the land it stands on. During the annual olive harvest, Akel and her extended family pick olives from their grove, a cherished family legacy. After a week of harvesting, they produce olive oil and preserve the olives, ensuring a supply until the next year's harvest. For many Palestinians, the olive harvest is not only a tradition but also a crucial source of income. Olive oil, a vital ingredient in Palestinian cuisine, is also used in cosmetics and soap. However, Palestinian olive trees have faced attacks by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank. According to the UN, over 5,000 olive trees owned by West Bank Palestinians were vandalised in the first five months of 2023. In past years, settlers have targeted Palestinians during the harvest season, causing significant damage and theft.

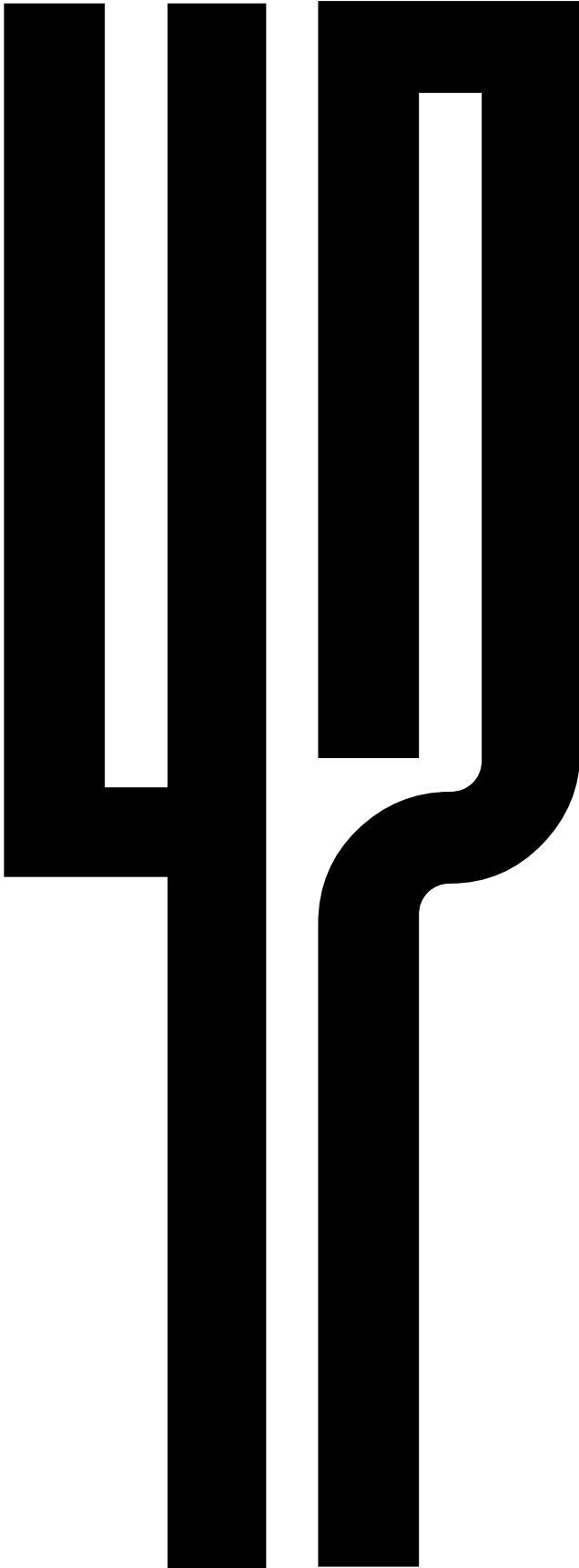
OP Cast Lead

The 22-day land, naval and air bombardment by Israel in 2008 in the Gaza Strip which saw around 1,400 Palestinians killed, thousands injured, and massive damage to infrastructure, including the destruction of 3,540 homes, 268 factories and warehouses and 18 schools. White phosphorous was used. "At 11:25am, Israeli air jets violently bombed the academy as well as tens of police stations across the Gaza Strip at the same time," - Ayman al-Batniji, spokesperson for the Palestinian Police Force in Gaza

Oranges

The Jaffa orange, developed in the 19th century, became well-known for its sweetness and easy-to-peel skin, making it suitable for shipping. Before the 1948 creation of Israel, known as the Nakba, over 750,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their ancestral homes. Jaffa oranges were a significant export for Palestinian farmers and businessmen during this time. These oranges also became a symbol of national identity in literature and art. Ghassan Kanafani, a Palestinian novelist and journalist, used oranges to represent loss in his 1958 short story about the Nakba, titled "The Land of Sad Oranges."





Orient House

Palestinian Authority office in East Jerusalem, seized by Israel on August 10, 2001, along with eight other P.L.O. offices in the area. See: East Jerusalem.

Orthodox

The term “orthodox” denotes an historic theological position in religious groups like Christians and Jews, indicating theological or liturgical purity. With a capital letter, it refers to specific groups like the Greek Orthodox Church or Orthodox Judaism. See: Fundamentalist.

Oslo Accords

AKA Oslo, Agreements between Israel and the P.L.O. initiated in Oslo, Norway, starting with the “Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government” (DOP) on September 13, 1993. Subsequent documents include the Taba Agreement (Oslo II) in 1995, the Hebron Agreement in 1997, and others, collectively known as the “Oslo Accords.”





P.A, P.N.A

The Palestinian Authority or Palestinian National Authority - the elected officials and agencies authorised under the Oslo Accords. Yasir Arafat became the president of the P.N.A. on January 20, 1996. See: P.L.C.; Palestine.

P.F.L.P

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, established in 1967 by Dr. George Habash, a Christian Palestinian, The P.F.L.P is a leftist faction of the P.L.O. In 1988, it endorsed the P.N.C.'s declaration of a Palestinian state, aligning with U.N. Resolution 181 (Palestine Partition of 1947). However, it opposed the P.L.O.'s signing of the Oslo Accord in September 1993.

P.L.C

The Palestinian Legislative Council consisting of 88 members elected on January 20, 1996, from 16 electoral districts, was established under the Oslo Accords. It does not handle foreign affairs or agreements with foreign governments. See: Oslo.

P.L.O

The Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) was formed in May 1964 after the Arab League authorised representation for stateless Palestinians. Yasir Arafat assumed the chairmanship in 1969. In 1974, the United Nations recognised it as the representative of the Palestinian people, granting observer status. That year, an Arab summit acknowledged the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of Palestinians. In 1993, Israel also recognised the P.L.O. as the official Palestinian signatory to the Oslo Accords. See: Oslo, P.N.C.

Palestine

Located since biblical times along the eastern Mediterranean, the region was officially named Palestine by the Romans in the 2nd century. Despite the 1947 U.N. Resolution 181 proposing a Palestinian state on 43.5 percent of Mandate Palestine, Palestinians continue to lack statehood. See: P.L.O., Palestinian Authority, West Bank.

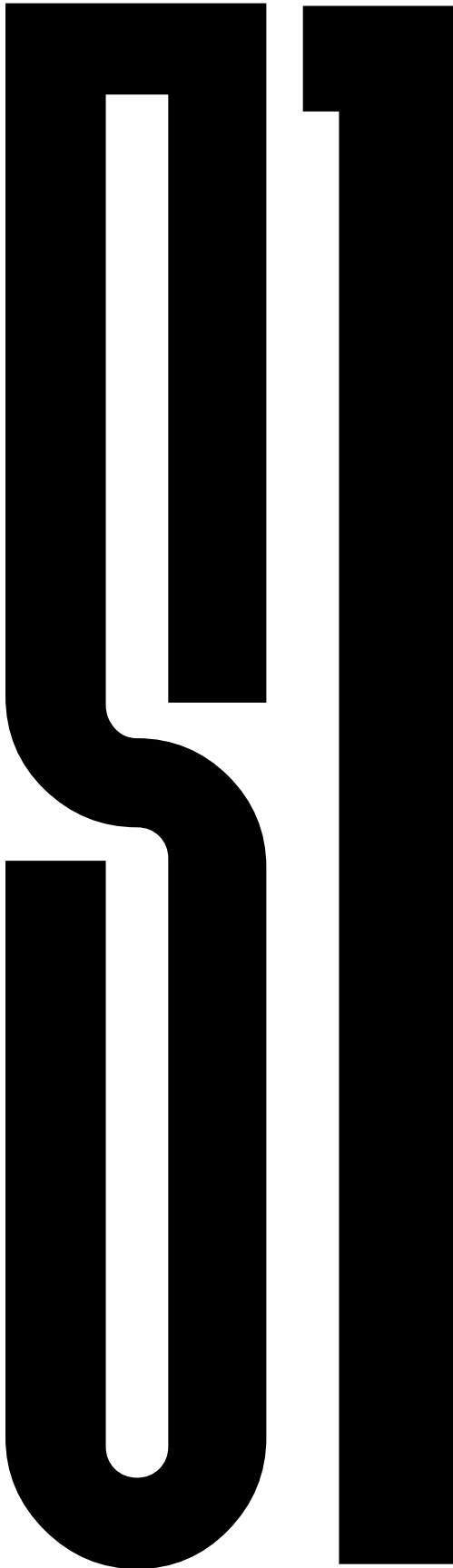
Palestinian Keffiyeh

The keffiyeh gained popularity in the 1900s when Palestinian rebels used it to conceal their identities and evade arrest. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, further popularised it by consistently wearing the scarf during resistance against the occupation. See : Keffiyeh.

Palestinian Refugees

Palestinian refugees are the original Arab inhabitants of historic Palestine, encompassing present-day Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Israel forcibly expelled a significant portion of the Palestinian population during the establishment of the state in 1948 and continued displacement during the 1967 Israeli-Arab wars. The refugees fall into three main groups: those displaced outside historic Palestine in 1948, internally displaced Palestinians bwithin the state of Israel, and those displaced for the first time in the 1967 war from the West Bank and Gaza. For over 75 years, Palestinian refugees have been denied the right to return to their ancestral villages and homes.





Peace Organisation

Peace and human rights advocacy organisations have emerged among Israelis and Palestinians, fostering collaboration and joint demonstrations. Israeli groups include B'Tselem [www.btselem.org], Bat Shalom [www.batshalom.org], Coalition of Women for Peace [www.coalitionofwomen4peace.org], Gush Shalom [www.gush-shalom.org/english], Peace Now [www.peace-now.org.il/english], Rabbis for Human Rights [www.rabbishr.org], Women in Black, and Yesh Gvul [www.yesh-gvul.org/English]. Palestinian organizations include Al Haq [www.alhaq.org], Palestinian Center for Human Rights [www.pchrgaza.org], Bir Zeit Human Rights Action Project [www.birzeit-edu/hrap], Addameer [www.addameer.org], International Center of Bethlehem [www.annadwa.org], Palestine Human Rights Information Center [www.ariga.com/human-rights], Law [www.LawSociety.org], Rapprochement Center [www.rapprochement.org], Sabeel Liberation Theology Movement [www.sabeel.org], and the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center [www.planet.edu/~alaslal].

Peace Permits

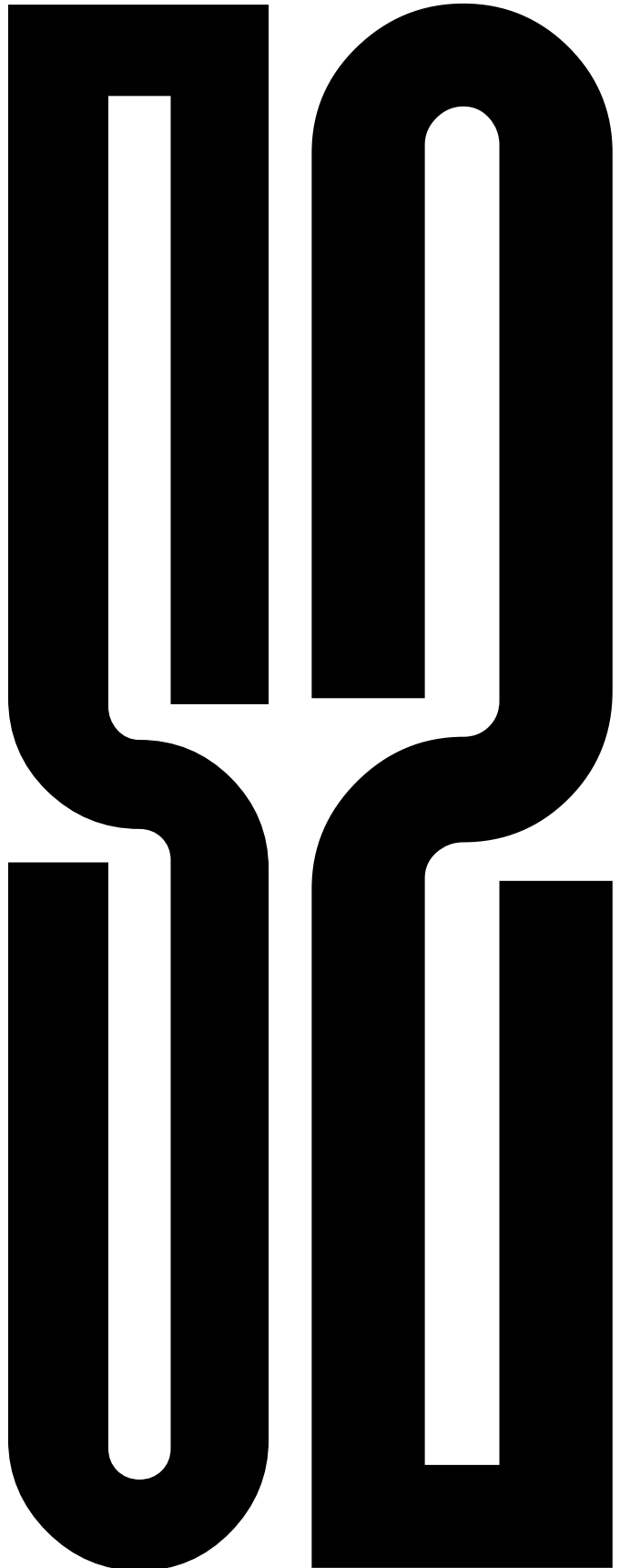
Israeli-issued documents permit various daily activities for West Bank and Gaza residents, including work commutes, construction, and import-export of goods. Palestinians from these areas must obtain special permission to travel abroad via Tel Aviv airport and other border crossings. Israel also provides ID papers to Palestinians in Jerusalem but occasionally revokes them, such as when students study abroad or a Jerusalem-born Palestinian marries a resident of the West Bank or Gaza. See: Borders; Closure; Checkpoint.

Peace Process

For the past twenty years, the leaderships of the United States, Britain, Israel, and Palestine have employed the term 'peace process' to describe the futile, insufficient, and dishonorable agreement that permitted the U.S. and Israel to exert control over the limited territories allocated to an occupied population.

Propaganda

The deliberate dissemination of information, ideas, or narratives, often through media channels, with the aim of influencing public opinion or perception about the Israeli -Palestinian conflict. This information can be selectively presented, biased, or misleading, serving the interests of a particular group or government. Propaganda in this context is a tool used by various parties to shape narratives, control narratives, and garner support for their respective positions, often contributing to the polarisation and complexity of the conflict.



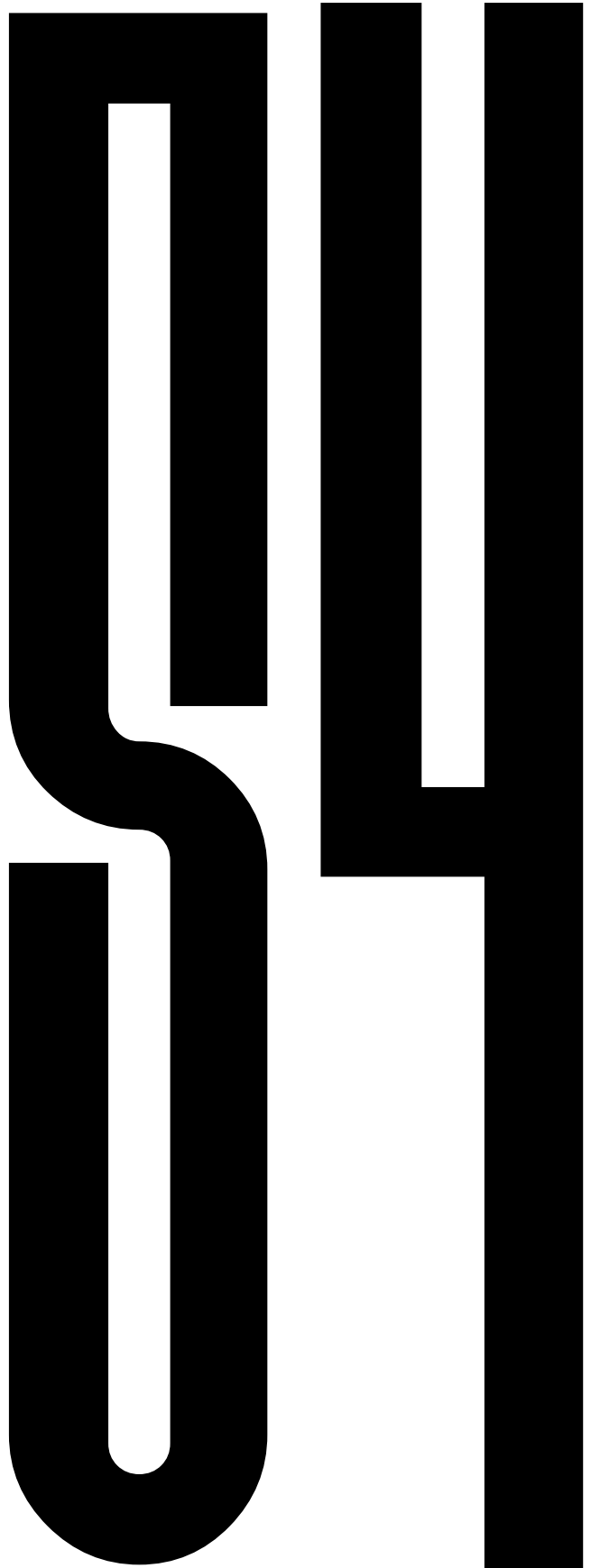


Quiet

A word employed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the military to signify the goal of suppressing Palestinian resistance without addressing the root causes. Netanyahu has referred to a “big quiet” to describe a tense situation where Israelis enjoy calm while Palestinians endure control. Amid rising civilian casualties in Gaza, Defense Minister Benny Gantz insisted that attacks would persist until “complete quiet” is achieved before discussing calm.

Qur'an

The preferred term for Islamic scriptures, the Qur'an consists of 114 chapters (surahs) with verses (ayats). It means “recitation” in Arabic, and Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammad received it through revelations from God via the angel Jibreel (Gabriel). See: Islam; Muslim.





Ramadan

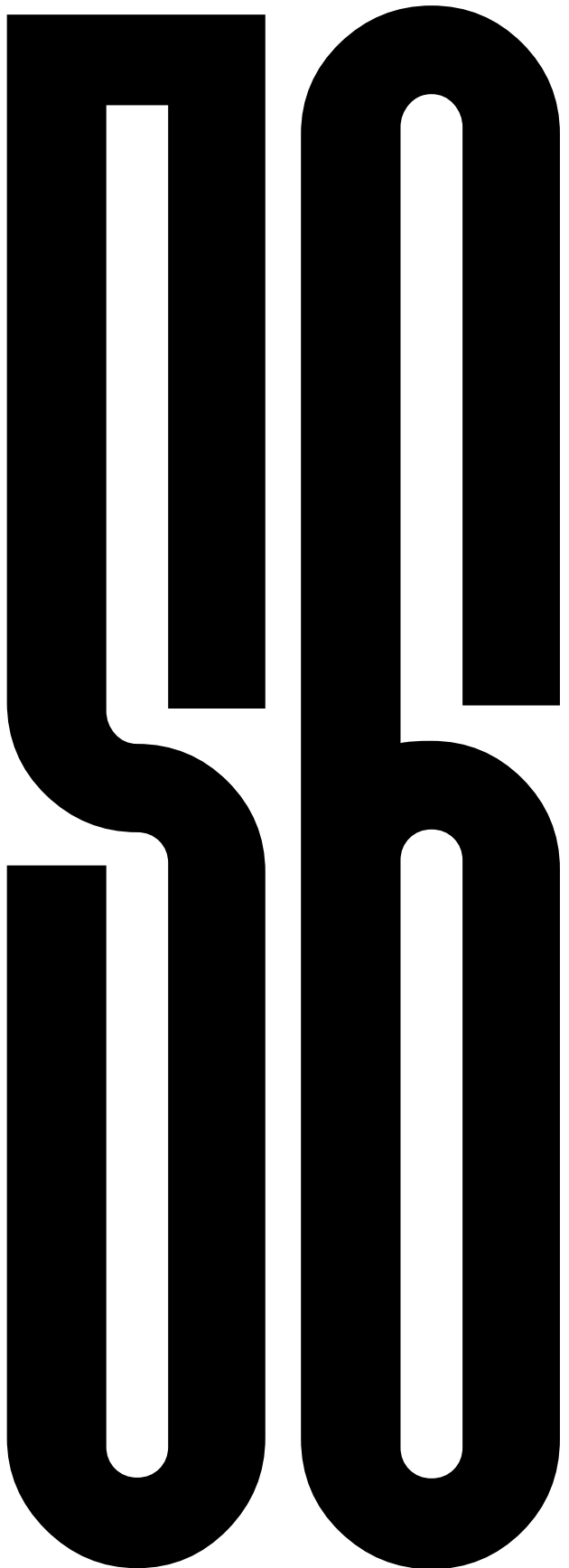
The ninth month in the Muslim calendar, regarded as sacred due to being the time when the initial revelations leading to the Qur'an were received by Prophet Muhammad in 610. Muslims observe Ramadan by fasting and practicing self-discipline during daylight hours, concluding the fast with a special meal after sunset. The month concludes with the celebration of Eid al Fitr, lasting several days. As the Muslim calendar follows the lunar cycle, Ramadan starts approximately eleven days earlier each year. See: Islam; Muslim.

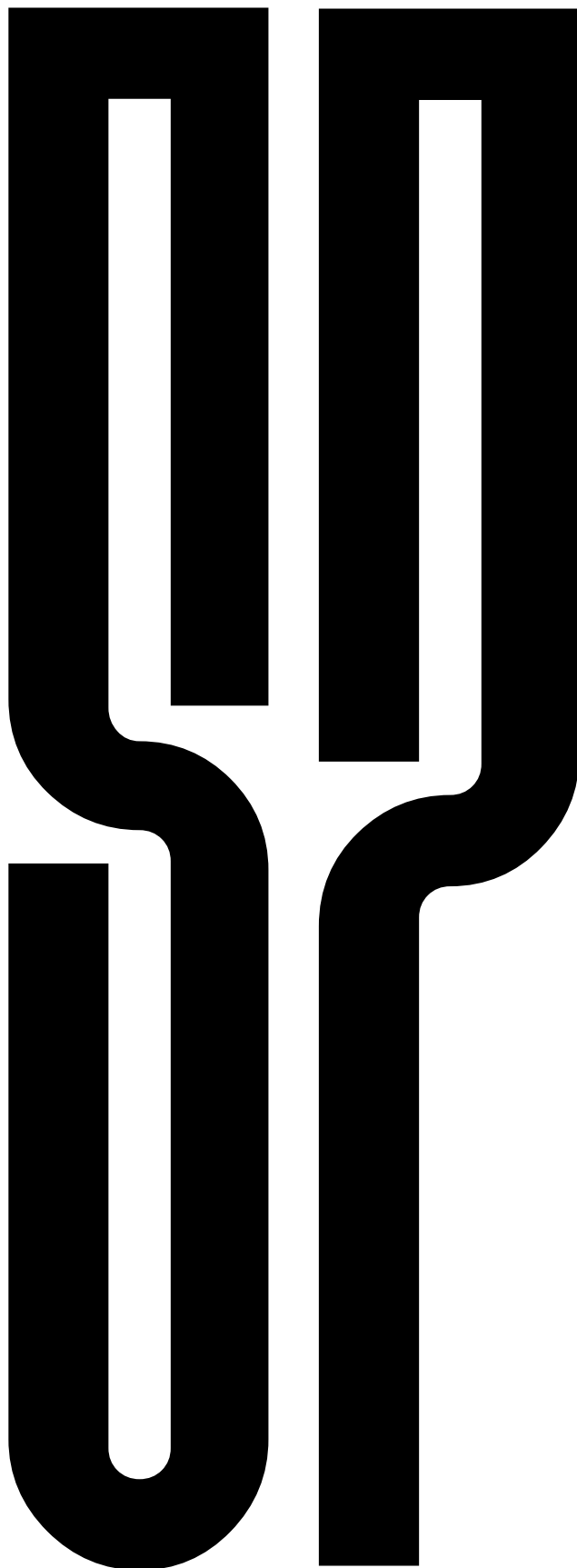
Refugees

Individuals forced from their homes, particularly during wartime, unable to return. As per the United Nations, Palestinian refugees are those who lived in Palestine for at least two years before the 1948 conflict, losing homes and livelihoods, seeking refuge where U.N.R.W.A. provides assistance. This includes descendants under specific conditions. In 1948, an estimated 757,000 refugees existed, with additional displacements in 1967. By 1999, the U.N. registered 3.5 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza. The U.N. affirmed the right of refugees to return to their homes in 1948 (Resolution 194). Currently, 33 percent reside in 59 U.N.R.W.A.-maintained camps. See: Law of Return; Palestinian Refugees; Right of Return.

Relative Calm

AKA Comparative Quiet - Media occasionally uses terms to characterise periods with few Israeli casualties, despite a higher number of Palestinian casualties during the same times.





Right to Resist, Resistance

Palestinians possess an acknowledged entitlement, as per international law, to oppose and resist Israeli occupation. This entitlement is endorsed within the framework of the right to self-determination for all peoples under foreign and colonial dominion. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has explicitly affirmed the Palestinians' right to resist Israeli military occupation, including through armed struggle.

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Rubber-coated Steel Bullets

This term is more precise than "rubber bullets." It is crucial to differentiate between live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets. The Israeli army often employs the latter when dealing with Palestinian stone throwers. Mainstream media commonly labels these bullets as "rubber-coated," creating an impression of greater humanity. In reality, they are steel bullets with a thin rubber layer, and they can cause more extensive damage, especially when lodged in a person's head or abdomen, particularly a young individual. See: IDF.





Salahidin Brigade

The military wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, named after the Muslim general who defeated the Crusaders. It is composed of members from Hamas and Yasir Arafat's Fatah organisation. See: Fatah, Hamas, Crusades.

Samaria

An area in the West Bank near Nablus, inhabited by the Samaritans since biblical times. The Samaritans, numbering fewer than 550, worship in Hebrew, practice animal sacrifice, consider themselves Palestinians, and are integrated into Palestinian society. See: Judea and Samaria.

Security Measures

Term used by Israel to justify actions such as shelling Palestinian areas, bulldozing homes, and restricting supplies. The term is contested, and a more accurate description would be punitive measures.

Semitic Peoples

Members of ethnic and religious groups believed to be descendants from Noah's son Shem. Both Jews and Arabs are of Semitic origin, and the region has numerous Semitic languages.

Segregation

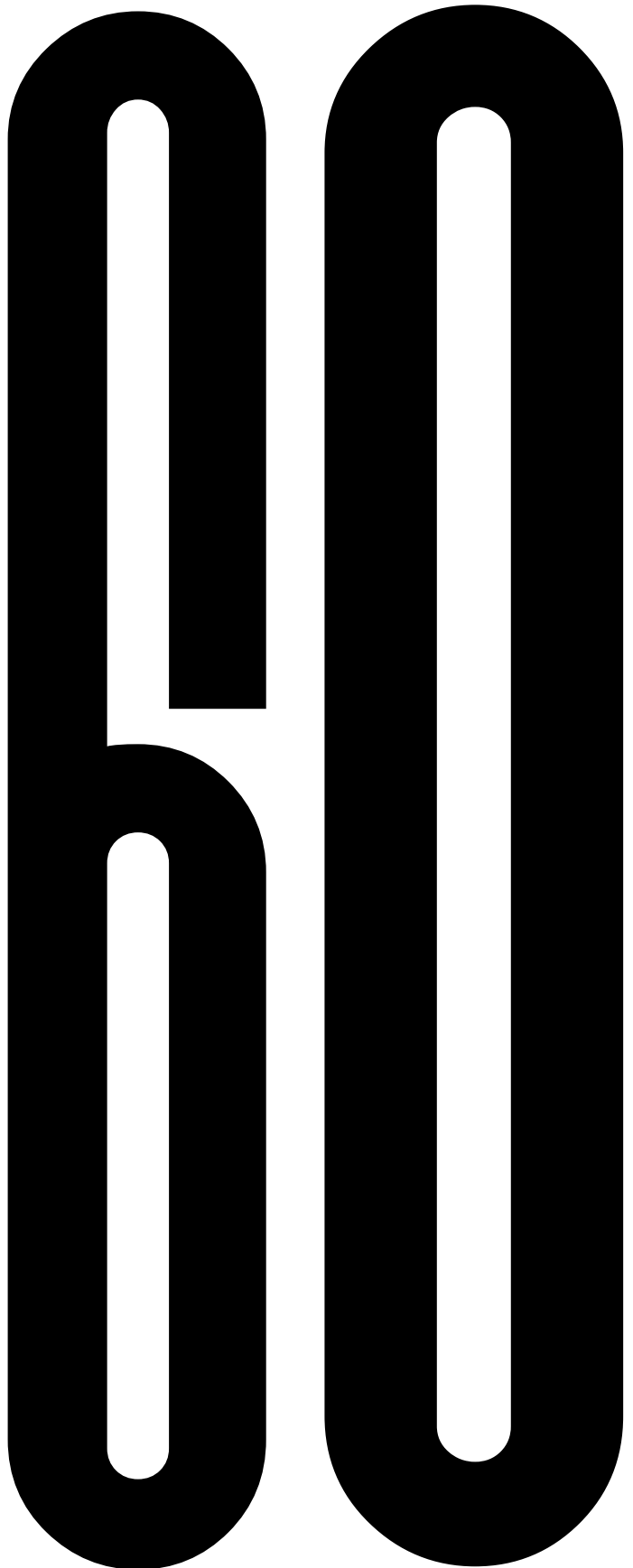
The systematic division and separation of populations based on ethnicity, nationality, or religious identity, particularly between Israelis and Palestinians. This division is often manifested through physical barriers, legal distinctions, and discriminatory policies that restrict the movement, access, and rights of Palestinians in various aspects of daily life, such as housing, education, employment, and public services. The term highlights the unequal and separate treatment experienced by Palestinians in comparison to Israelis, contributing to a fragmented and divided social landscape.

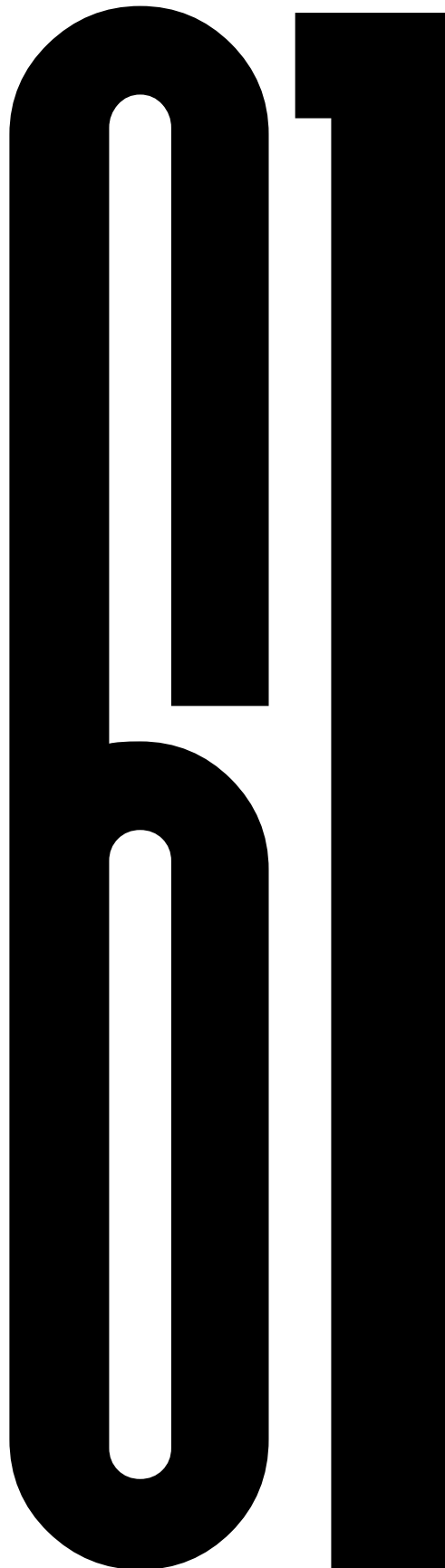
Settler Colonialism

Patrick Wolfe asserts that Israel's settler colonialism is evident in its immigration policies, which encourage unrestricted immigration for Jews while rejecting family reunification for Palestinian citizens. See: Colonialism

Settler Jews

Live in subsidised homes and settlements, mainly in the West Bank and Gaza, mainly within commuting distance from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. By August 2000, 400,000 settlers lived in these areas. The annual increase is around 8 percent. Although the first settlers, in the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights, were Laborites and generally secular, later settlers near Jerusalem, and in Hebron, were more likely to be Ultra-Orthodox and highly ideological. The Hebrew words for settler, mityashev or mitnachel, can mean either a dweller or the possessor of an inheritance. See: Settlements.





Settlers

Originally any new Jewish development in Israel, now used to describe residential communities around Jerusalem and in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights. Controversial, built on confiscated land, at least partially at the expense of the Israeli government. and a source of international controversy. Sometimes called “colonies,” these settlements, built for Jews only, often are massive apartment blocks or suburban homes. See: Geneva Conventions; Colonies

Siege, Blockade

For 16 years, the Gaza Strip faced a siege, but after the October 7, 23’ Hamas attack, Israel halted all supplies to Gaza, including water and electricity, making it a total siege. The core purpose of sieges is to keep human beings hungry, thirsty and cold — so they are weakened, if not defeated. See: Gaza.

Shabbat

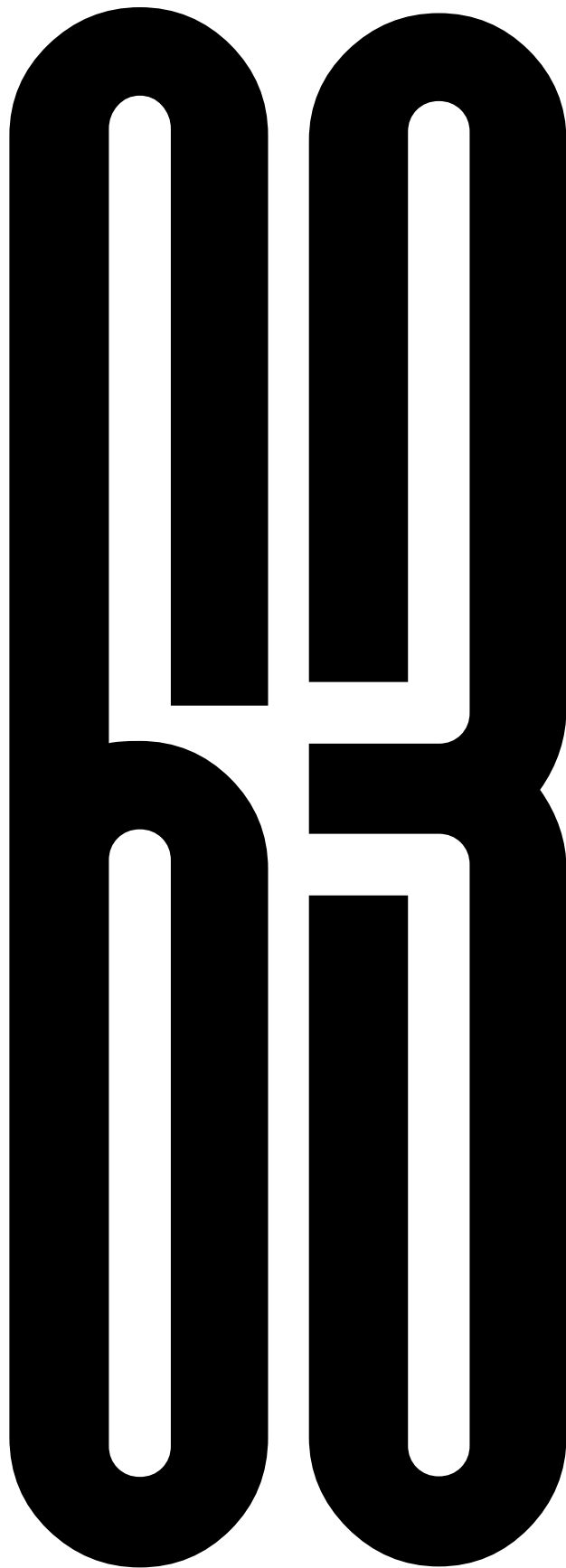
The Jewish day of worship, beginning at sundown on Friday and continuing until sundown on Saturday.

Special Relationship

The longstanding alliance between the United States and Israel, initiated by President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy faced strained relations with Egypt’s Nasser, who seemed to lean towards the Soviet Union. Amid concerns about Communist expansion in Vietnam, Washington sought a reliable ally in the Middle East. The U.S. provides significant military and economic aid to Israel, with diplomatic support at the UN resolutions by vetoing over 40 U.N. resolutions critical of Israel. See: Foreign Aid to Israel.

The core purpose of sieges is to keep human beings hungry, thirsty and cold — so they are weakened, if not defeated.





Tanzim

‘Organisation’ in Arabic. A quasi-military militia associated with the P.L.O.’s Fatah organisation. Tanzim members, numbering in the tens of thousands, see themselves as graduates of the intifada, organising protests against Israel’s occupation. They operate under local commanders, with branches throughout the occupied territories, and are notably present in Bethlehem, Bir Zeit, and An-Najah universities. They also organise first aid and civil defense courses on a regular basis. See P.L.O

Targeted Killings, Inspections

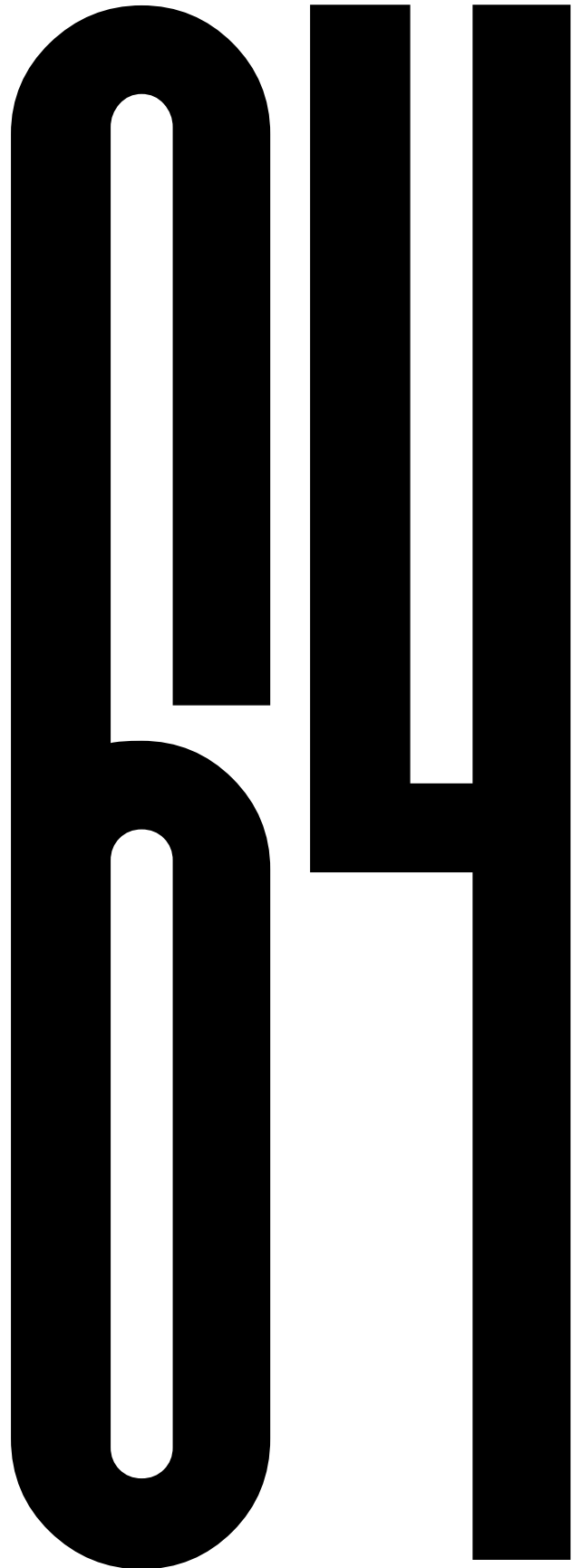
Israel’s policy of executing Palestinians without a trial. These actions are carried out by Israeli death squads or missile-firing helicopters. The Israeli military uses the phrase “target bank” for the list from which the security cabinet selects its next target. The practice is condemned by Palestinians and human rights groups, who often use the terms “assassinations” or “extra - judicial executions.”

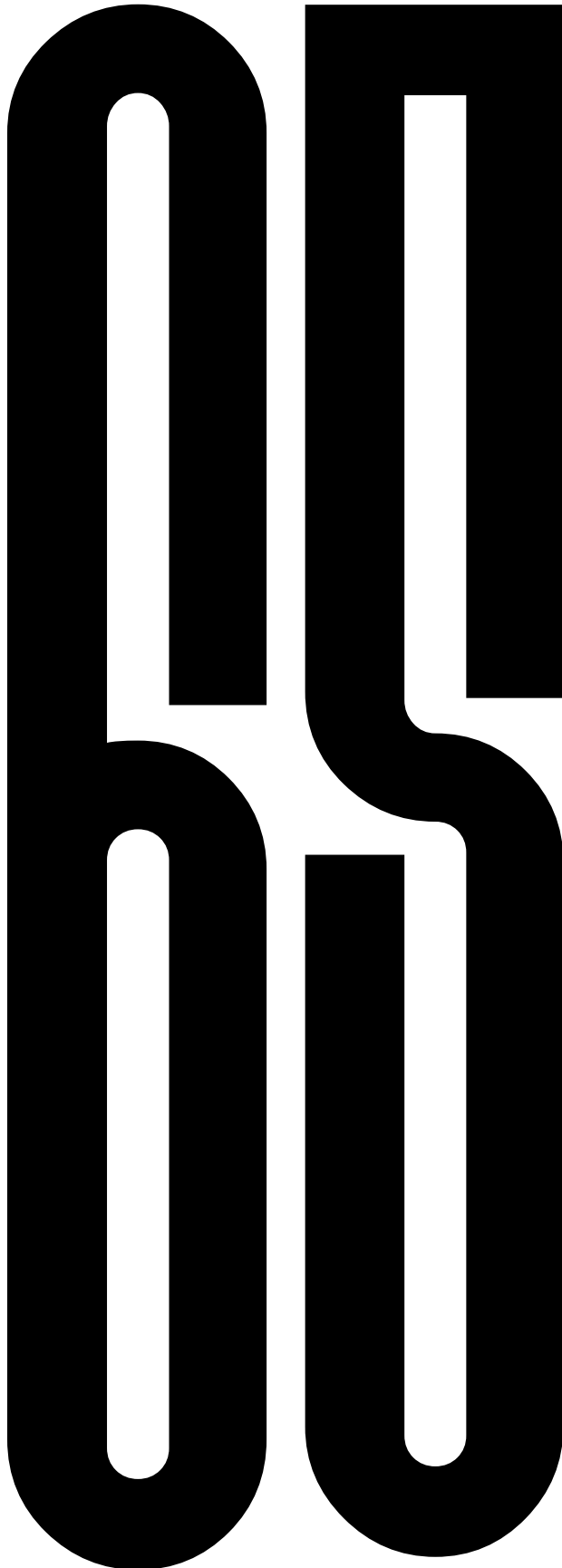
Temple Mount

The English term used by Israelis for the site of the First and Second Temples, believed to be the current location of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. The Hebrew terms are Har Ha Moriyya or Har Ha Bayt, with the Arabic equivalent Al Haram al Sherif.

Terrorism

An act causing extreme fear, dread, or fright. It can refer to a mode of governing (military action or state-sponsored terrorism) or opposing government (armed resistance or a poor man's way of waging war). Military actions are frequently defended on the basis of national security, while armed resistance is commonly justified on human rights grounds. The United Nations acknowledges the legitimacy of "armed struggle" as a method for achieving self-determination or restoring lost independence, as seen in General Assembly Resolution 2246. However, Israel contends that all acts of resistance by Palestinians are illegitimate acts of terrorism. Palestinians view some actions as legitimate armed struggle for self-determination. Journalists should be cautious about revealing bias in their reporting by using the term "terrorism" for every act of violence from one side. Journalists should avoid consistently using the term "terrorism" for every act of violence from the Palestinian side, as it indicates a pro-Israeli bias in reporting. The assessment of whether such actions by a state or a resistance group violate international conventions falls under the jurisdiction of tribunals like the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, and countries that have signed the Geneva Conventions. An example of this occurred in December 2001, where over 100 Geneva Convention signatories convened in Switzerland to criticise Israel for "indiscriminate and disproportional violence" against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, urging compliance with international law.





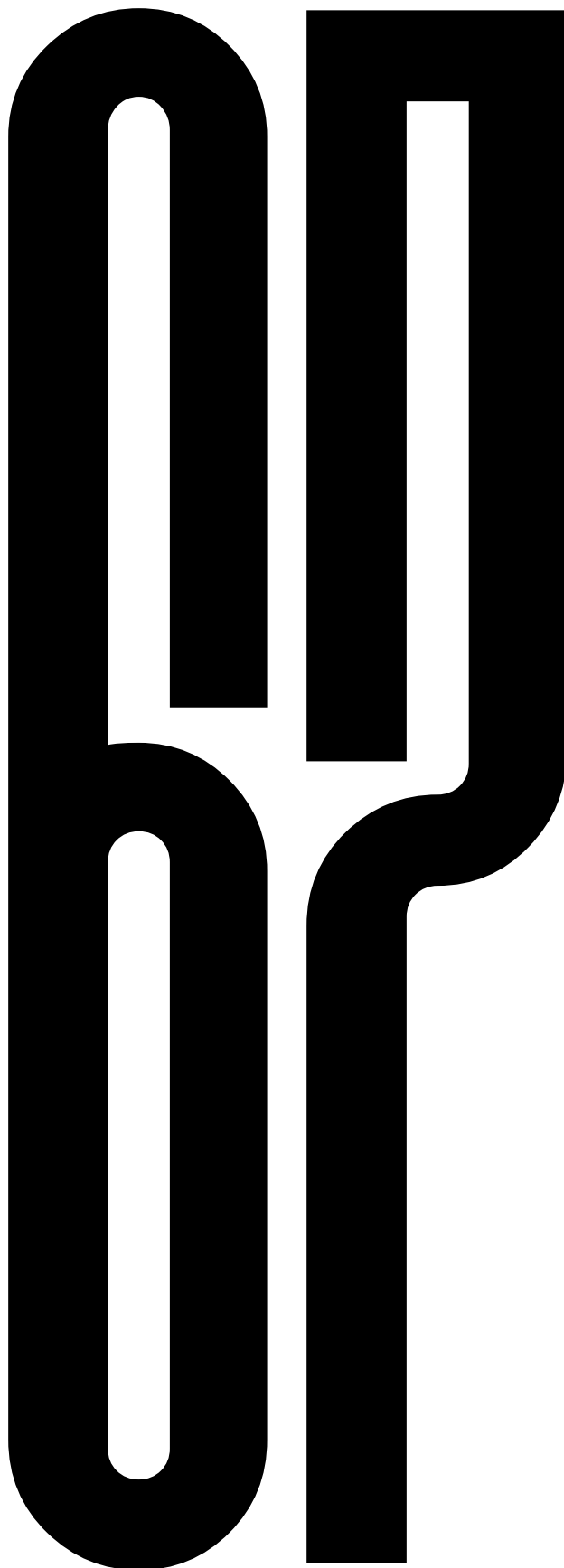
Totalitarianism

A political system where the state recognises no limits to its authority and seeks to regulate all aspects of public and private life. It often involves extensive political repression, censorship, and control over individuals' lives. i.e. Israel's regime against Palestinians.

Transfer, Transfer Agreement

An euphemism for ethnic cleansing, the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes. Plan Dalet (Plan D), a Zionist master plan in 1948, led to the expulsion of 757,000 Palestinians and the destruction of 419 villages. The idea of transfer persists, with some Israelis supporting the notion of moving Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has suggested that Palestinians already have a state in Jordan. The Transfer Agreement refers to a negotiated arrangement in 1933 between Zionist organisations and the Nazis to transfer Jews to Palestine in exchange for stopping a worldwide Jewish-led boycott against Hitler's regime. See: Ethnic Cleansing; Nakba; Palestinian Refugees; Zionism.





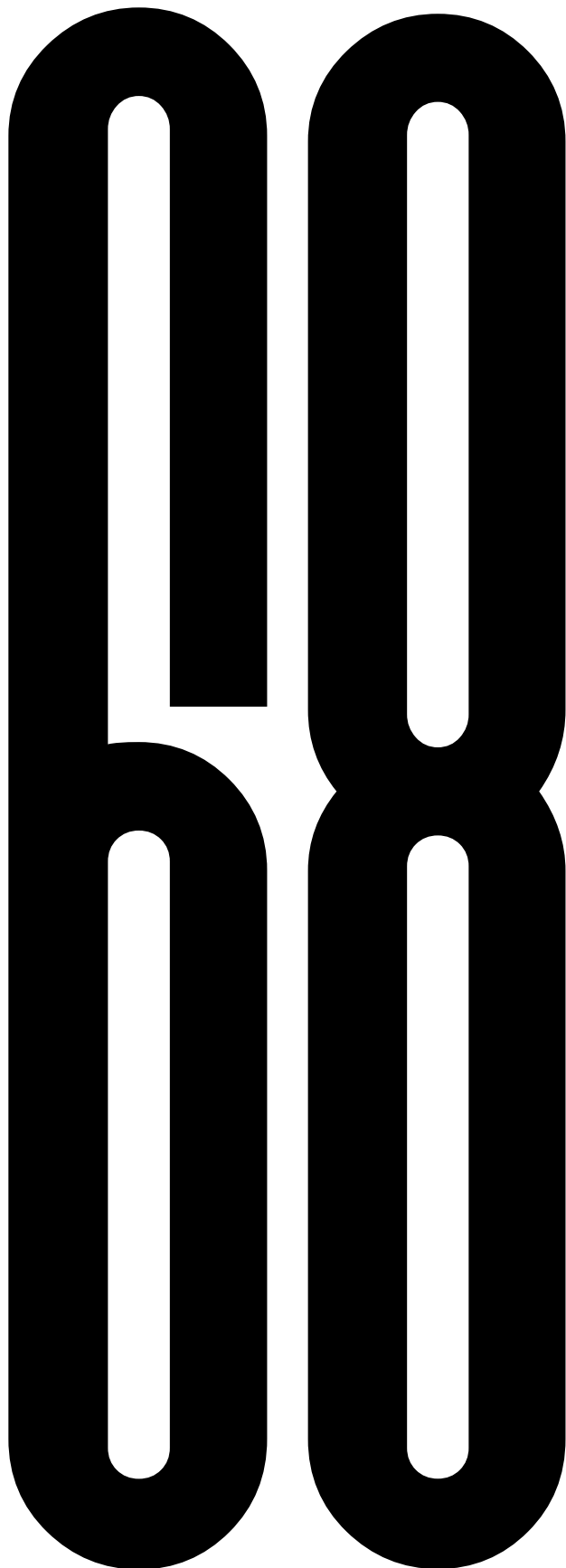
U.N. Resolutions

The General Assembly and Security Council have issued numerous resolutions related to Israel and the Palestinians. Notable instances include the 1947 Resolution 181, proposing a partition plan for Palestine, and Resolution 194 in 1948, affirming the right of Palestinian refugees to return. In 1967, Resolution 242 urged Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories, with recognition by Arab nations. During the 1973 war, Resolution 338 called for peace talks, reiterating the principles of Resolution 242. The Oslo Accords between Israel and the P.L.O. reference these resolutions for final status negotiations. In 2000, Resolution 1322 urged Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention. [www.untreaty.un.org/] See: Geneva Conventions; Occupied Territories; Refugees.

Unrecognised Villages

Palestinian villages in Israel predating its establishment lack formal recognition from the Israeli government. These villages receive no public services and face potential land confiscation. Despite these challenges, sympathetic groups of Israeli Jews have offered support and some protection to these communities.





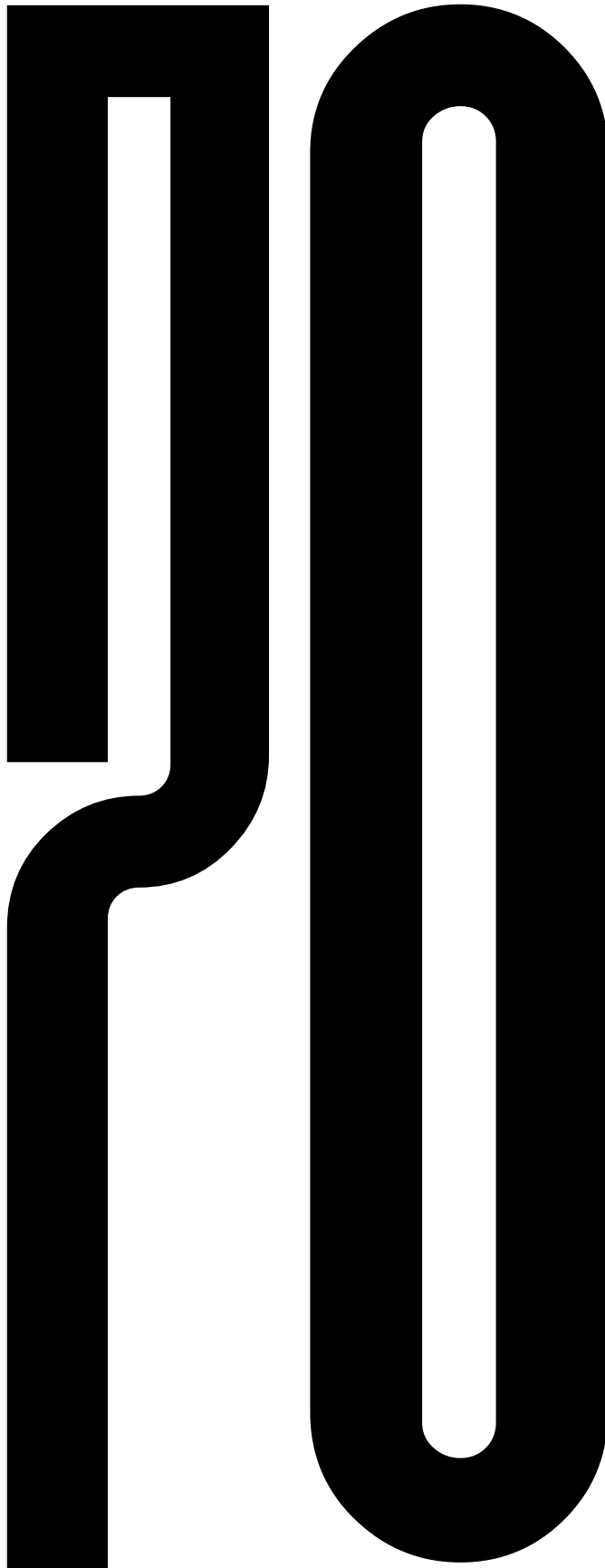
Violence

Often framed as beginning with Palestinian resistance, rather than ongoing mass displacement, military occupation, political repression or imposed poverty.

Violent Escalations

A term employed by media narratives to describe intensive acts of violence, downplaying the severity of the situation in 75+ years of ongoing ethnic cleansing and occupation. See. Framing; Violence.





War

The first conflict erupted in 1948 when the UN proposed a Partition Plan for Palestine. Arabs were discontented as Jews, being half the population and owning less than 10% of the proposed Jewish state, were to be the ruling authority. Arab states sent arms and volunteers into Palestine before the British left, and on May 16, 1948, the day Israel was proclaimed, they sent their regular armies. Zionist leaders, seeking territorial expansion, had already resorted to military action. Known as the War of Independence in Israel, Palestinians refer to it as the Nakbah (Catastrophe). Jordan annexed the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Egypt administered Gaza.

In 1956-57, Israel, Britain, and France attacked Egypt in the Suez War, capturing the Sinai and Gaza. President Eisenhower forced Israel to relinquish most of the seized land, calling the invasion a threat to international order.

In 1967, Israel launched a surprise attack against Egypt in the Six Day War, ending with Israel occupying the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and parts of the Golan Heights.

In 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel to regain territory lost in 1967, known as the October, Ramadan, or Yom Kippur War. Though the Arabs failed, it led to a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979, with the Sinai returned to Egypt.

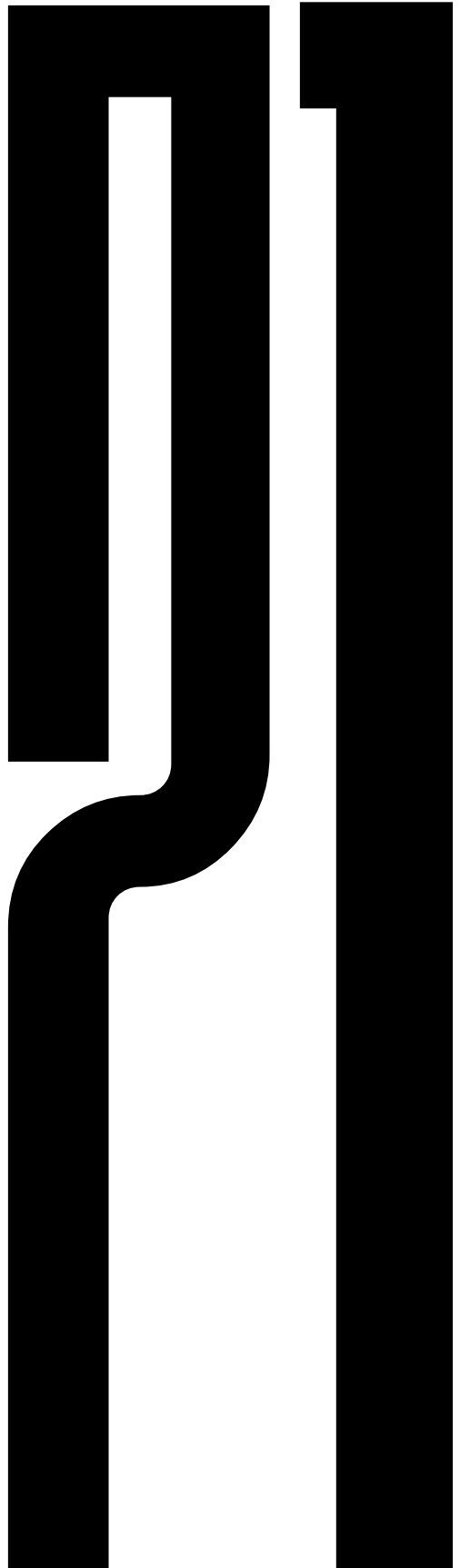
On June 6, 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, citing the shooting of its ambassador in London as justification. In 2000, Israel withdrew from southern

Lebanon, except for Shaaba Farms, a disputed strip along Lebanon's southeast border with the Golan Heights.

See: Gaza, Golan Heights, Green Line, Intifada, Nakba, Occupation, Refugees.

White Phosphorous

A wax-like, toxic substance that burns at more than 800 degrees Celsius (nearly 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit) – high enough to melt metal. It is unlawfully indiscriminate when airburst in populated urban areas, where it can burn down houses and cause egregious harm to civilians, according to Human Rights Watch. It can burn the skin down to the bone, and the chemicals can be absorbed by the body, causing dysfunction in multiple organs, including the liver, kidneys and heart. Used by Israeli forces in populated areas in Gaza numerous times including Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, which lasted from December 27, 2008, until January 18, 2009. 2014, 2023. See: OP Cast Lead



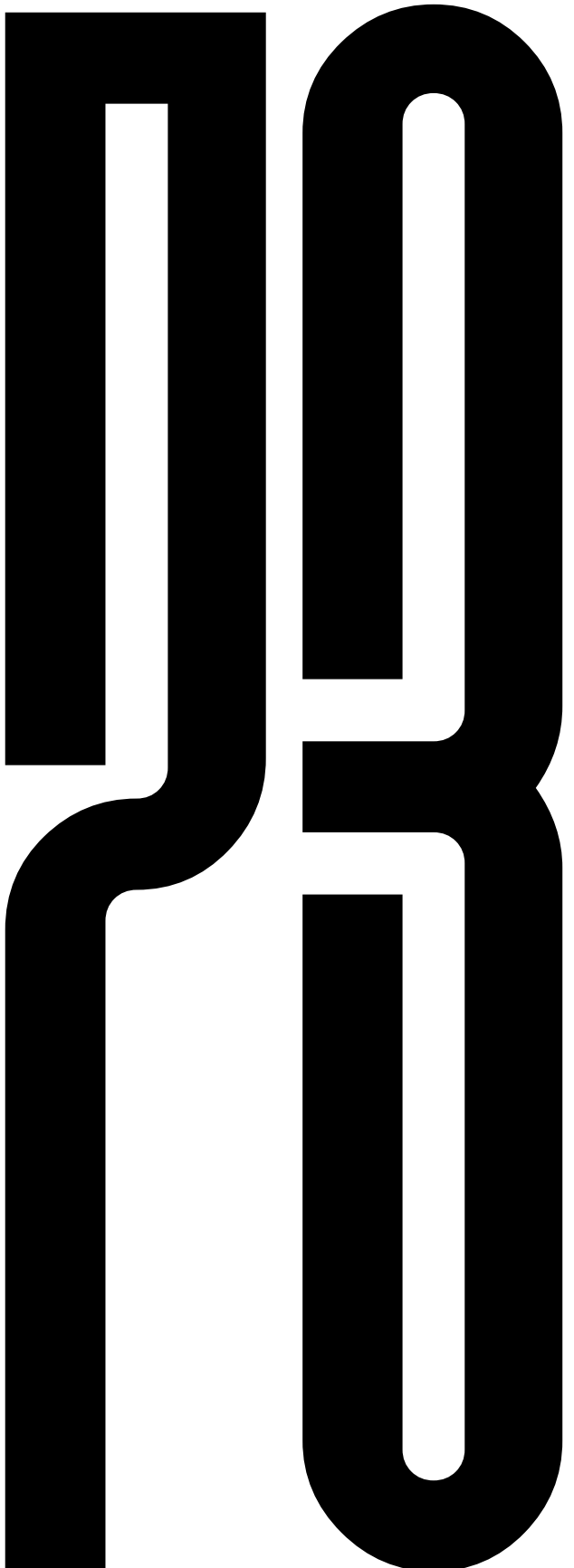


Yesha Council

A collective of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, Yesha opposes any governmental comprimisation on settlement expansion. Occasionally, members resort to vigilantism, attempting to forcibly displace Palestinian farmers from their land. See: Settlements; Settlers.

Yvesh Gul

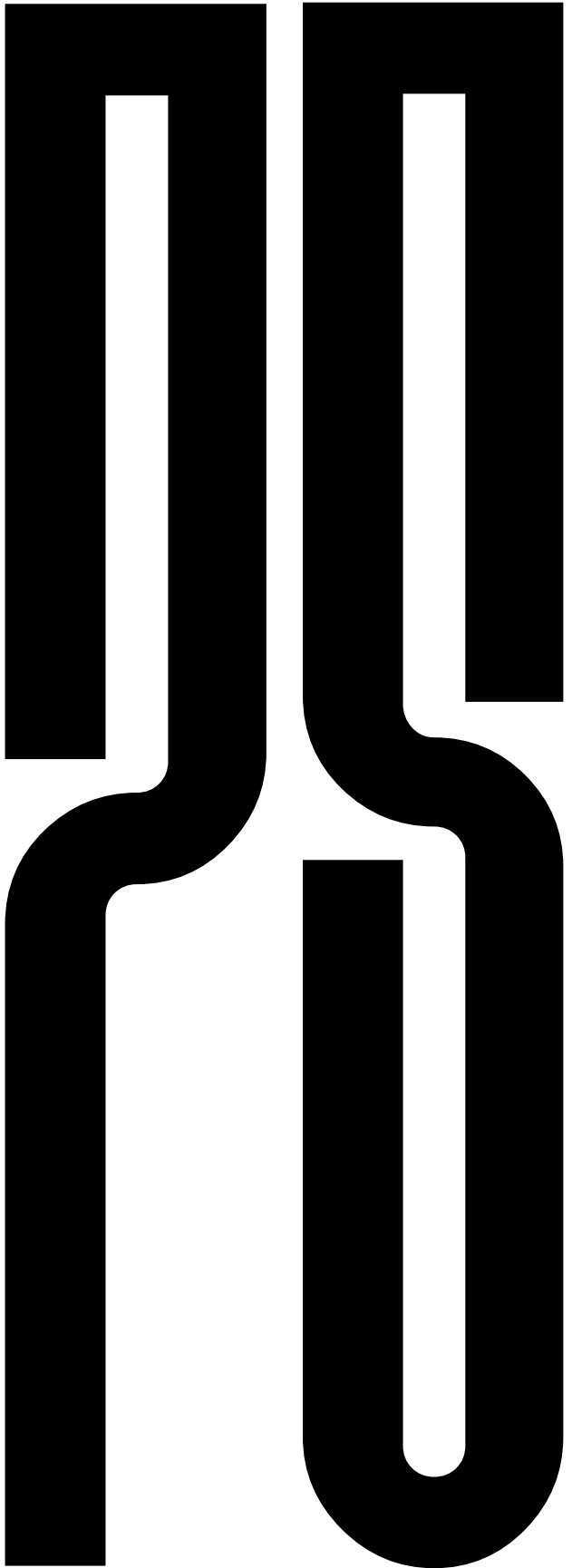
(Hebrew meaning "There is a limit") - Established in 1982, Yesh Gvul is an Israeli peace organisation that provides support to soldiers rejecting assignments deemed oppressive or aggressive. Amid the current intifada, additional support groups emerged, including one formed by disabled army veterans and another by reserve soldiers' wives. As of February 2002, over 250 reservists had declined service in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, citing objections to Israeli policies involving the "domination, expulsion, starvation, and humiliation" of the Palestinian population.





Zion, Zionism, Zionist

Zion is a biblical name variously referring to Jerusalem as a whole, the temple area, and to the location of David's palace. Coined in 1890, Zionism refers to a movement advocating Jewish resettlement in historic Palestine and the establishment of Israel. Regarding the Nakba, an ongoing catastrophe tied to Zionism, it is crucial to acknowledge Zionism as the culprit. Born in 19th - century Europe, this political ideology proposed a Jewish state as the solution to Jewish persecution. Theodor Herzl's 1896 pamphlet "Der Judenstaat" articulated this vision. Definitions of Zionism vary, with Israeli officials equating it to Judaism, liberal Zionists framing it as a liberation movement, and religious Zionists linking it to biblical destiny. However, those under its rule view Zionism as an ideology of dispossession, a racist settler-colonial enterprise. Early Zionist leaders, including David Ben Gurion and Ze'ev Jabotinsky, expressed expansionist and colonialist views. The Nakba epitomises the material manifestations of Zionism. Ahad Ha'am, a conciliatory Zionist, recognised in 1891 that Palestine wasn't uninhabited and advocated for respect toward the Palestinian majority. In 1975, the U.N. labeled Zionism "a form of racism," later repealed in 1991 after U.S. diplomatic efforts. Modern Zionists align with the goals of the contemporary state of Israel through various means. See: Christian Zionism; Jewish State.



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